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EDITORIAL FOREWORD

With this issue we commence publication of *PHYSICS*, an experimental journal which will attempt to alleviate the increasing problems of communication in science.

In conception it was analogous to a journal of literature and general information, such as *Harper's*. There is far more good writing than the editor of such a magazine can publish in his pages. Therefore, he must attract as many good articles as possible and select from them a representative sample with the goal of keeping his readers interested and broadly informed. Writers submit work because the journal pays for what is accepted, and of course, because they approve the magazine's tone and goals and want to be published in its pages.

We add little to this concept except the idea that in our opinion physics has reached the point at which there is far more good physics written than any physicist can read, especially if he hopes to cover more than his own special field. On the other hand, it would be too bad if most physicists were to have to give up reading original material in other fields even fairly close to their own, as perforce most of them have long since given up reading articles in the other sciences. Therefore, we believe it is a good idea to institute a selective journal in which the editors try their very best to present a selection of papers which are worth the attention of all physicists.

We would like to thank the many physicists who have written us expressions of their opinions of this idea for a journal, both approval and criticism. One criticism which is leveled is that our judgments will be fallible, particularly that we may reject excellent work but also that in striving for general interest we may be overimpressed by showiness. The only real answer is that we will do our best. We must and will face both the idea that we will make mistakes and the fact that our criteria will be, not better, but different.

Another criticism is that it is somewhat arrogant of us to set up our opinions and arbitrary criteria as a basis for selection. It is important to realize that a fairly arbitrary selection process already affects most of the material outside our chosen specialty which reaches our eyes and ears. The express journals select on the basis of urgency, the harassed junior members who organize colloquia and the selfless people who organize meetings select on other criteria such as ability at oral presentation and simply word-of-mouth report. We think this kind of selection is necessary, not arrogant, and believe it is worth while to add a different set of criteria to it.

The seven papers which constitute this issue are good examples of the kind of paper we have in mind. We hope you will agree each one has some particular point of interest which makes it worth your attention. We believe many of you are also writing papers which are suitable for *PHYSICS*. We hope you will be interested enough in our experiment to let us read them. The September and November issues are to be circulated as widely as this one — give us a try!

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