

EDITOR'S PREFACE

This edition marks the completion of my first year as editor of the Journal. It has been a challenging and rewarding experience. During this first year, I was appointed Associate Dean of the College of Agriculture and Associate Director of the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station. This dramatic change in professional responsibilities has absorbed a great deal of my time. Fortunately, the generous support and encouragement of the Director, Dr. W. L. Harris; the Dean, Dr. E. H. Brown; and the Assistant Editor, Mrs. V. B. Smith, has enabled the professional activity of the Journal to continue.

This Proceedings issue contains the invited papers and all contributed papers. It was my intention to include complete symposia as well. Unfortunately, production difficulties prevented this from happening. The papers from complete symposia will be included in the April issue. The papers from incomplete symposia were treated as separate articles and are being reviewed for the April issue, using our standard procedures.

The decision to publish symposium papers is a departure from past practice. However, I feel that if a symposium is complete, it should be evaluated as a unit and that the symposium in its entirety should be accepted or rejected. If a symposium is rejected as a unit, then an individ-

ual paper can still be evaluated on its own merits. It has been suggested that the editor should exercise greater control over which proceedings papers are published than has been exercised in the past. Obviously, this concern was expressed because of the quality of some of the papers given. After considerable reflection, it was decided to maintain the practice of the past. However, each author was given three weeks in which to change or withdraw a paper. Even so, this issue contains articles which would not have survived the review process used for the April issue. On the plus side of this decision is the fact that the Proceedings issue reflects a broader spectrum of ideas and issues. On the negative side, this policy ties the hands of an editor. It means that the editor cannot delete a paper of less than professional quality. (This means that there are limits to how far an editor can go in protecting an author from himself.)

The publication of a Journal is an important part of any professional association. I invite comment and criticism concerning my editorial policies. (Some has been forthcoming without invitation, but is nonetheless welcome.) I sincerely hope that my new University responsibilities will not prevent me from completing the normal three-year assignment as editor.