

nutritional and therapeutical contribution, and, on the other hand, of its pollution.

The book is aimed to provide the reader with basic notions on: (1) the physico-chemical and biological properties of the sea and the atmospheric interaction earth-sea; (2) the research organization, material and techniques in medical oceanography; (3) pollution in its chemical, radioactive, bacteriological aspects, and allergic or toxic phenomena due to sea organisms; (4) marine nutritional possibilities (from fishes to algae), and therapeutical ones (thermalism and thalassotherapy).

The advantages of a rational exploitation of the sea are pointed out.

A Manual of Style - Twelfth Edition, Revised

By the Editorial Staff of the University of Chicago Press. The University of Chicago Press - Chicago and London 1969. Bound volume with cover; 15 × 23 cm; x+546 pages, including tables and illustrations. Glossary of technical terms; Bibliography; Subject Index. Price US \$ 10.00.

“ Throughout this book it is assumed that no regulation contained therein is absolutely inviolable. Wherever the peculiar nature of the subject-matter, the desirability of throwing into relief a certain part of the argument, the reasonable preference of a writer, or a typographical contingency suggests a deviation, such deviation may legitimately be made ”.

This was said in the preface to the first edition of this Manual, appeared in 1906; and it still applies to the present twelfth edition, which appears sixty-three years later, with more than ninety percent of its material being new.

Once the above limitation made clear, i.e., once the “ philosophy ” of a style manual, the relativity of its regulations accepted, then such a manual becomes a fundamental working tool for authors and editors (and, of course, for copywriters, proofreaders, typesetters, etc.).

Unfortunately, however, authors are not yet familiar with the idea of a style manual. Most of them are not even aware of the existence of such an instrument. Generally speaking, the elementary reaction of an author is to reject the very idea of “ conformity ”. This may be partly justified. But a scientific author, as a rule, is primarily a scientist, rather

than a writer; and, as such, he must conform to a number of regulations leading him to use a basically standard, concise and lucid style: science and literature have different needs. And a style manual generally tries to meet both.

What may be desirable for the author becomes essential for the editor, for what has not been done by the former, the latter must do. It is on the basis of a style manual that the editor develops his own regulations for the journal, treatise, or book he is dealing with. His work is a very delicate one and requires both technical skill and sensitivity, in compliance with the ever valid advice of the first edition of this *Manual*: “ ... when no question of good taste or good logic is involved, deference should be shown to the expressed wishes of the author ”.

The Chicago University Press's *Manual of Style* practically meets any difficult situation an author or editor may face. A particular attention has been devoted to scientific publications.

The *Manual* has been arranged in a form that follows the entire process of creation of a book. It is divided into three parts. Part 1, *Bookmaking*, describes the parts of a book and deals with manuscript preparation, task of the author and function of the editor, proof-reading and correction, and rights and permissions (copyright, etc.). Part 2, *Style*, represents the actual core of the book, dealing with all kinds of problems (punctuation, capitalization, quotations, etc.) which may be found when trying to achieve clarity and consistency within a publication. Part 3, *Production and Printing*, is a more technical one, dealing with design and typography. The manual is completed and enriched by a glossary of technical terms, an annotated bibliography, and a subject index.

Perhaps, the only limit of this fundamental work is represented by its referring, as a rule, to the standard book, while peculiar problems, which may be found in the preparation of congress proceedings, periodicals, etc., are comparatively little dealt with. On the other hand, many apparently missing indications may easily be deduced from the existing ones. After all, a style manual is not a law code.

P. Parisi