

clarity of reproduction by this method, however, seems worth the extra time and effort involved.

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IN SCIENCE for December 31, Professor Sebastian Albrecht, of Dudley University, Albany, calls attention to the calligraphic reproduction of tables in Volumes IV and V of the Transactions of the Astronomical Observatory of Yale University. Some years ago during a strike of printers in the east, a number of publications depended entirely upon the typewriter and photoengraver for the preparation of their matter.

Professor Albrecht makes reference to irregularity of impressions. The electric typewriter obviates this phase, as the several models now on the market do not depend upon the touch of the fingers for impact with the paper, but have a uniform stroke, and the intensity of the impression can be regulated.

The communication refers to typing with an ordinary typewriter ribbon. During the newspaper strike in the east when copy was prepared for zinc etchings, the publishers used carbon paper made up in narrow strips the same width as the standard typewriter ribbon for the machines used, and substituted these for the ribbon. In this way a sharp impression was secured—cleaner than the impression of the type through an inked ribbon.

OTTO KNEY

THE FRENCH SOCIETY FOR BIOGEOGRAPHY

AT the time when the Société de Biogéographie enters into the fourth year of its existence, we draw the attention to this association which includes naturalists on all specialties: botanists, biologists, ethnologists, geologists and zoologists whose aim is to study in common the distribution of all beings over the surface of the globe, to specify the conditions of such distribution and to investigate into the determination of consequences of the formation of the flora and fauna both living and fossil.

The society holds every month a sitting, the order of the day of which having been settled beforehand affords useful and interesting discussions on the different subjects in hand. Besides it institutes at fixed intervals deep investigations on a subject selected among those which most deservedly engross the minds of biogeographers and whose solutions require the concurrence of all the disciplines represented; thus it is that thanks to the initiative of the society, a series of memoirs bound in a volume of 250 pages has lately been devoted to the "Histoire du Peuplement de la Corse" and that it is preparing just now a new volume on "Le Peuplement des Montagnes."

The number of members of the society (the seat of which is in Paris, 61 rue de Buffon) is limited; but it is possible to procure its reports (*Compte Rendu Sommaire des Séances de la Société de Biogéographie*) by subscription.

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THE JOURNAL OF GENERAL PHYSIOLOGY

THE relation of publication to the advance of science is not open to debate, and because of the rôle which publication plays scientists are concerned in having available a suitable outlet in which to report their work, whether this be in a journal owned by a society, by an individual or endowed. Where but one journal exists in a special field of science, it becomes much more important that its editorial policies be such as to encourage the submission of the best work and that those responsible for its conduct obtain and hold the respect of workers in that field.

The Journal of General Physiology occupies a unique position, in that it offers the only outlet in America for papers in this field, and in the last analysis its policies are determined by a group virtually independent in many respects. Many engaged in research in general physiology feel that as now managed the *Journal* is not serving the science adequately. The usual courtesies of correspondence are frequently neglected, the receipt of manuscript is not promptly acknowledged, it is customary to print dates of acceptance rather than dates of receipt of manuscript, thereby depriving authors of some weeks or months of priority for new work, and in one case on record not only did the *Journal* decline to reply to any letters of inquiry concerning a manuscript but without having indicated whether or not it was acceptable, declined to return it until it was demanded by a legal representative. While this is an extreme case, the experience of several would indicate that if the *Journal of General Physiology* is to perform its functions properly, the procedures of its board should be revised, and steps taken to establish and maintain the editorial ethics which in general are accepted in the offices of scientific publications.

This matter is brought to the attention of physiologists generally as a constructive criticism and with a view ultimately to draft suggestions which it is believed those responsible for the *Journal of General Physiology* will duly consider because of their established interest in the science.

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The account given by Dr. M. M. Brooks of her unfortunate experience with a paper sent to me for the *Journal of General Physiology* is in its main fea-