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To Our Readers

The decision to combine *The Scientific Monthly* with *Science* and to continue the joint journal in the *Science* format was made with the expectation that the combined journal would be more comprehensive, interesting, and useful than either by itself.

In this first issue following the fusion we should like to outline our expectations and policies. The section devoted to lead articles will be enlarged to permit publication of articles of the type formerly published in the *Monthly*. We expect the lead articles to range over a wide field and to include articles on the history and philosophy of science, on the technical and social problems in the applications of science, and on the reciprocal relations between science and government, between science and international affairs, and between science and education.

In addition, we will continue to publish articles, such as those that often appeared in the *Monthly*, on the state of knowledge in the various divisions of science. In this connection we have planned a new series of articles on *Current Problems in Research*. For inclusion in this series we will select subjects from the physical, the biological, and the social and behavioral sciences. Among the topics planned for the series are the following: age of the universe, air pollution, astrophysics, atmospheres of other planets, chemistry at high pressures, earthquakes and the earth's crust, economic cycles, human archeology, human evolution, the ionosphere, superconductivity, viruses and nucleoproteins, musical acoustics, scientific manpower, meteorology and forecasting, and so on.

The articles in the new series, although written by specialists, will be designed to bring the reader up to date in fields other than his own; they will be directed to the scientifically literate public rather than to the specialists in the field; and they will be as clearly written and as free from technical detail as is consistent with adequate presentation.

The news section will continue to record events of interest to the scientific community and will expand its treatment of pending legislation of concern to science, the role of scientists in government, and international events of scientific interest.

The book review section will be enlarged by virtue of the fact that in the future all books deemed worthy of review will appear in the combined journal rather than in one or the other.

For the rest, we expect to maintain the other sections of *Science* at the present level, except for a possible expansion in the section devoted to reports.

One unusual and widely misunderstood policy merits explanation. The American Association for the Advancement of Science, even though it owns and publishes this magazine, does not expect the editor to give preference in publication to members or fellows of the Association. This policy is also extended to official addresses and is the same as it was when Willard L. Valentine, the first editor of *Science* after the Association acquired full ownership, said in an editorial (4 January 1946), "Wisely, the Executive Committee refused to bind the Editor's hands, so that *Science* is not required to publish all official addresses."

These are our plans and policies. From time to time we will make other changes. Let us know your reactions. The suggestion box is always open.—G.DuS.