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Plans for *Science*

In becoming editor of *Science* I am in the position of one who has been made custodian of a uniquely valuable property. With a circulation approaching 80,000, the journal reaches all segments of American science. Many scientists turn to it before scanning the publications of their specialties. With an excellent editorial staff and efficient printing arrangements, *Science* can provide fast publication. Thus the News and Comment section has a deadline of Tuesday; the journal is printed on Wednesday and is usually in the mail by midnight. Location of the editorial offices in Washington, together with this speed, permits effective handling of news of special import to readers.

Our plans call for no drastic revision of the present content. We will build on the existing structure. This is already occurring in our Reports section, which is being expanded to achieve a balance of material from the biological and physical sciences. Biology is an exciting area these days, and we will continue to publish about the same number of reports in biology as we have heretofore. We are increasing the number of papers in the physical sciences. Simultaneously we have reduced our median publication time. This has been cut to something less than 3 months, and we expect to reduce it to 2 months. Some material appears in less than a month. In attaining this speed, quality has not been sacrificed. Indeed, the reviewing process has been reinforced and outside referees are being employed more intensively.

Another section which is being expanded is Meeting Reports, particularly reports of symposia. At a time when criticism is being directed toward large meetings, much of the important work in science is being reported in small closed gatherings. We are inviting participants or organizers of selected symposia to prepare summaries for us, and we hope thus to cover many important events.

The content of a scientific journal ordinarily is determined by the material that is passively received from authors. The editor exercises judgment by choosing from what is in hand. Such a process tends to leave content to chance, for one cannot print that which is not received. In principle, at least, the situation can be altered by supplementing the voluntary mechanisms by recruiting. For this purpose our Editorial Board has been expanded and its functions have been altered. Members' duties are to identify significant new discoveries and developments and to initiate steps leading to their disclosure in *Science*. Members are men of broad interests and wide acquaintance, and we believe their efforts will have considerable impact on the journal. Their names are listed at the left.

Most of the other features of *Science* will go on as before. Your editor has not been writing many editorials. He has opinions, some strong, many unorthodox, but he feels that he can best foster *Science* by employing his energies on technical content.

With passage of time and further consideration and consultation, additional plans and other attitudes will doubtless evolve. As of the moment we are pleased with the evidence of progress, and especially with the cooperative attitude of all who have been asked to help.—P.H.A.