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. 1

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EDITORIAL

Plus ça Change, Plus c'est la Même Chose

This issue of *Science* is the second recent step in a process of change within our journal. The 3 April issue involved a redesign of the magazine's interior, and this issue emphasizes the increasingly international outlook of *Science*.

Each of the major divisions within Science-the Research Editorial Department, the News Editorial Department, the Art Department, and the Production Department—is continually looking for ways to improve the journal and keep abreast of new technological, cultural, and conceptual developments. The effort to enhance our value to our readers goes on continually and is reflected in minor changes that may appear from week to week and pass largely unnoticed by any but our most discerning readers. Every once in a while the changing needs or opportunities require dramatic changes in our journal. For example, an examination of new production technology and reader needs indicated to us that Science could be produced more efficiently and organized and presented more effectively. As a result, our Art and Production departments carefully evaluated how such a plan could be implemented, preserving those features that appeared to be favorable, and incorporating new ideas that would increase our readability. The new format features a considerably changed table of contents but permits readers to spot author names more easily and highlights news articles or Perspectives that add information to the papers in the same issue. Other parts of the magazine were changed in various ways to present scientific work and news articles attractively and efficiently and to eliminate wasted space between articles.

In addition to the physical presentation of *Science*, there are conceptual advances also. We have always been an international journal, publishing many foreign authors and covering news events abroad, but our emphasis has been more focused on the science and news of the United States. We are simultaneously expanding our subscription list in Europe and the Far East and providing more pages for European and Far Eastern authors as well as for science news from these areas.

To some extent, a journal has the characteristics of a human organism. Humans are constantly regenerating our tissues, constantly absorbing new facts that change our outlook, and constantly learning new technologies that increase our capabilities. If we do not take advantage of all these processes we will lose the competition as individuals and as species. Journals face the same changes and competitive pressures. The increasingly global character of research, news, and philosophical understanding has prompted a gradual increase in international coverage, but it has also demanded major abrupt changes quite analogous to the change in format or design. Added pages in the magazine will be devoted to international authors. Added news coverage will be reflected by the opening of new bureaus in Europe and Japan, and accelerated delivery to our readers in Europe and the Far East should bring *Science* to them as rapidly as to U.S. authors.

The increase in journal pages should be inviting to non-U.S. authors as well as to Americans. This issue tests the principle by devoting pages to news articles on multidisciplinary advances in a wide variety of European nations plus a special lineup of Perspectives on science in Europe by outstanding European scientists. Next year we plan to venture into countries and disciplines for which there was no space this year. And later this year we plan a special report on science in Japan.

We invite comments and suggestions from our readers. There will thus be a period of consolidation and improvement of the gradual sort before the next abrupt change, which may well occur a few years hence. An issue of a journal, like an individual, has a finite lifetime, but a journal, like a species, can survive if it is continuously making changes that make it attractive and efficient in a world of ceaseless competition. Feedback from our readers will help us select those changes which make us a better journal and thus improve our chances for better service to readers and authors.

Daniel E. Koshland, Jr.