Editorial

Readers will be aware that on January 1st of this year the Editorial Office of *Diabetologia* was moved from Göttingen to Southampton. Many changes occurred during Professor Creutzfeldt and Professor Schöffling's period of office. *Diabetologia* progressed from being a somewhat parochial European journal to become a truly international journal. Standards of refereeing were improved and average publication time was brought down to well under a year. The rigorous policies of the editors have borne fruit in two ways. First, the reputation of the journal has steadily improved, and, second, there has been an explosive increase in the number of papers submitted. Thus, about 150 papers were submitted in 1974 and 1975; this increased to 199 in 1976 and, if present trends are maintained, will increase to between 220 and 230 this year. Obviously it is beneficial for a journal to be selective in its publication of papers and nearly half of all papers submitted have been rejected over the past eighteen months. The rejection rate will, however, inevitably increase to 60 to 70%, if the present rate of submission of papers is maintained. This becomes self-defeating in the long run, as authors become dispirited and start sending their material elsewhere.

It is also written into the mandate of the editors of the journal that reviews and other articles can be published in *Diabetologia*. Apart from Prize Lectures of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes, this has not been done in the recent past, as the Editors felt, quite rightly, that original articles should take precedence when the pressure on space was so great.

One solution to the problem is to increase the size of the journal and we, that is, the Editor-in-Chief, the Executive Council of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes, and the publishers, feel that the time has come when this must be

done. We are of course aware of the inauspicious economic climate that pervades university, hospital and personal libraries but feel, nonetheless, that *Diabetologia* should now become a monthly journal. This will allow us to accept more of the many articles that at present are diverted to my 'reject' tray. It will also allow us to publish a regular series of reviews, editorials and book reviews.

In recent years knowledge has advanced so rapidly that textbooks are rapidly out of date. I intend the reviews to serve as a continuing series of articles on different aspects of diabetes, alternating between clinical and more basic subjects and written by world experts in the appropriate fields. There will be approximately six of these per year (three per volume), including the Minkowski prize lecture, which is always a first class review in its own right. Early reviews in the series will be on Animal Models for Diabetes, Clinical Uses of the Measurement of HbA_{1c}, and the Mechanism of Action of Insulin.

Editorials will serve a different function. Apart from the present one, which is a statement of intent, they will be used to focus on problems and controversies of the moment. They will be written partly by members of the editorial board and partly by invited experts. Both editorials and reviews will in general be invited, but if any author feels he has a perfect topic for the journal, he is of course welcome to discuss it with us.

One final point concerns the choice of papers for publication in *Diabetologia*. We have sometimes been criticised by clinicians for publishing too many articles on rat and mouse diabetes, and not enough clinical papers. Our problem is that it is much easier to design a good animal than a good human experiment. Also many clinical papers are of the 'so-what' or 'me-too' type, or are reports of isolated – and not very relevant – rare phenomena. However, we do

publish many good clinical papers, and the journal will now be divided into 'clinical' and 'experimental' sections.

January 1978 will therefore see the beginning of the 'new-look' *Diabetologia*. There will be two volumes of six issues each per year. Each issue will be somewhat smaller than at present, so that the actual increase in printed pages will be 42%. This will enable quality to be maintained. The increase in annual cost will also not be as great as would be entailed by a 100% increase in size. Obviously, we have no

desire to price ourselves out of the market altogether. We sincerely hope that improvements in the journal will attract new subscribers and that all interested readers will encourage their libraries to renew their subscriptions if they already take the journal, or to take out new subscriptions if they are not already confirmed addicts. We hope that you will bear with us and in the end not only approve of but benefit from these changes.

K. G. M. M. Alberti Editor-in-Chief