Editorial

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"What? Another journal." is what some people have said when queried about the reception of a journal in the sensory and psychophysical field. The exclamation reflects the concern, and sometimes almost desperation, with the problem of keeping up with the burgeoning scientific literature. We believe, however, that this journal will alleviate rather than aggravate the problem.

It is clear, first of all, that more outlets for scientific publication are required. The very long, and apparently increasing, publication lags in our major psychological journals indicate that the waters are pushing hard against the dam. And this despite the fact that a handful of new journals have been started in the last three years. The number of scientists capable of producing good research has been growing rapidly, and funds to help them produce the work have been keeping pace with the potential. Until the flood of talent and dollars to support the talent abates or is matched with pages to publish the resulting output, more publication space will be required.

The real question, then, is not whether there shall be more journals, but what form they shall take. There are limits to human capacities for storage and retrieval, both inside and outside the head, and these dictate, on the one hand, an increasing specialization of scientific literature and, on the other, more economical dissemination of work outside one's field of specialization. *Psychonomic Science* was designed to meet the latter objective, and seems to be doing it beyond all expectations. Other journals recently started have helped fill the need for publication in specialized areas. Still, in surveying these areas, it seemed to us, and to many we consulted, that at least one has clearly been neglected, namely, that of sensory processes, perception, and psychophysics. That is the area this journal is designed to cover.

For simplicity, the title *Perception & Psychophysics* was chosen as the title. These words, however, are intended to be construed in their broadest sense, covering sensory processes including their physiological aspects

and the spectrum through psychophysics, perception, and judgment. It is also intended that there be no rigid restriction on the kind of article to be considered. Although most articles should be and will be research articles, review and theoretical articles will also be welcome, for the idea is to provide an outlet for all articles that should be available to those interested in the defined area of the journal.

In practice, editorial policy will be set by the judgments of the Editorial Board. Rather than have a strong Editor with many consultants, with all the administrative and editorial work falling on a few shoulders, we decided on a pattern used with success in some of the physical and biological journals, of having several members of an Editorial Board each acting on his own responsibility, but using consultants where in the member's judgment it seems advisable. The membership of the Editorial Board with which we begin publication is given on the opposite page. Every member invited to serve, we are happy to say, accepted the invitation believing in each case that the journal was much needed. The membership of the board may be expanded slightly if the amount of work and the kinds of articles received seem to warrant it. Contributors are invited to send papers directly to some member of the board, but if they prefer, they may send their papers to the Managing Editor and he will refer them to the member who seems most appropriate.

The matter of style, particularly in the use of abbreviations, is always an annoying but unavoidable question. We have recommended the style followed in the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association because many authors are accustomed to the style and the manual is readily available. We will, however, accept any authoritative style that is internally consistent, e.g., that given in Webster's Collegiate Dictionary.

Any questions not answered by this introductory editorial may be referred to the Managing Editor, Box 38, Goleta, California, 93017.