EDITORIAL

This new journal, *The Bulletin of the Psychonomic Society*, combines a new concept with an old one. The new concept is that the members of the Psychonomic Society, being carefully selected for their contributions to experimental psychology, are competent to be their own editors. On that premise, the *Bulletin* has been established so that members may publish articles without any formal editing other than to meet the mechanical requirements for preparing articles for publication. Members may also sponsor the articles of nonmembers by taking full editorial responsibility for the articles.

The old concept, seen in the early years of *Psychonomic Science*, which the *Bulletin* succeeds, is to have a journal devoted to brief, rapid, publication. "Brief" is defined as two published pages. "Rapid" means publishing articles as promptly as they can be composed, returned to the authors for proofing, and printed. In practice, the lag in *Psychonomic Science* has been kept under three months, and often has been as little as one month. We plan to do as well, or better, in the *Bulletin*.

The reader who spins through the pages of this first issue will note that many of the articles have exceeded the two-page definition of "brief." Many are three pages long, and a couple have spilled over to a fourth page. The explanation is twofold: First, several of the articles published here were submitted to *Psychonomic Science*. When the December issues of that journal were filled up, some of the articles left over were transferred to the *Bulletin*. A second reason is that it is difficult for the editor, and even more so for an author, to size an article accurately. We often cannot be sure whether an article will fit two pages until the text has been composed, the tables designed, and the figures reduced. For that reason, we cannot stick rigidly to a two-page limitation, and we do not intend to. The following limits on manuscripts and illustrations, however, should keep articles from exceeding the two-page length by very much.

Manuscripts should be typed double-spaced in lines 6 inches wide. If pica type (10 characters to the inch) is used, and this type is preferred, and if the manuscript is entirely text (no tables or graphs), its length should not exceed 240 lines. If elite type (12 characters to the inch) is used, the manuscript should not exceed 200 lines. For each table or graph included in an article, subtract 20

lines from these limits. Tables and graphs, of course, vary greatly in size, but this rough rule of thumb will keep manuscripts in the neighborhood of our two-page goal.

Now a few remarks about the content of articles to be published in the journal. Since members of the Psychonomic Society will be their own editors, they will determine the content, but here are some of the things the Society's Publications Committee had in mind in establishing the *Bulletin*. First, they would like to encourage the prior or separate publication in the *Bulletin* of the highlights of longer articles appearing elsewhere. Lags in other journals will normally be much longer than those in the *Bulletin*. By writing a brief report for the *Bulletin*, an author can secure advance dissemination of his more important findings to a broader audience than his detailed report may later have. Secondly, replication reports are welcome. These contribute nothing "original," but they bolster (or in some cases lower) our confidence in the findings of other studies. Thirdly, many articles will simply represent "one-shot" experiments, sometimes of a preliminary nature and in other cases experiments that are easily reported in the two-page format. Finally, the *Bulletin* will be a good place on occasion to publish a theoretical or a critical note. In articles of this type, the editor will try to see that the language of the article is in good taste.

Finally, a word about reprints and reprint orders. A reprint order will not be required, but an author who takes valuable publication space ought to want to buy some reprints. He may sometimes feel that our prices are high, but he should realize that reprint charges not only cover the cost of reprints, but also contribute to financing the journal. In any case, we compose articles and send out proof strictly in the order they are received in the Publications Office. Along with proof goes a blank for ordering reprints. We schedule articles for publication in the order in which proof is returned with the reprint blank, whether reprints are ordered or not. We simply must know how many reprints are to be produced when we schedule articles for publication. Therefore, an author who delays returning proof and/or his reprint order should realize that he may be delaying publication of his article.

Clifford T. Morgan