

THE JOURNAL'S ABSTRACTS

In its intended function, the Current Literature department of THE JOURNAL is regarded as second to no other in importance in keeping its readers informed of conditions and activities throughout the world, and in serving as a repository of such information for future reference. The

³ KOFF, R., ROME, S., KASPER, R., COMMONS, R. S., BUTTON, R. and STARR, P. Subconjunctival injection of cortisone in iritis. J. American Med. Assoc. **144** (1950) 1259-1260.

task is not an easy one, and in actual performance that department has not always been what it is intended to be.

At the beginning of this year there was inaugurated a system which has proved decidedly useful in obtaining abstracts. Periodically, as information of published articles is obtained, from whatever source, cards requesting abstracts are sent to the Contributing Editors concerned. The response, with few exceptions, has been excellent.

Not all is simple, of course. It has to be decided, for example, what items seem definitely not worth the attention of an abstract, what ones represent duplicate publication to avoid duplicate attention, and what ones call for special attention. Contributing Editors are expected to exercise judgment with respect to what titles are not worth abstracting—e.g., individual case reports, or case presentations before dermatological societies which contain nothing new or instructive—but that selection is not always applied.

As of present writing, the more recent literature has been dealt with more thoroughly than at any time since before the war. To do that it has been necessary to supplement the material supplied by our Contributing Editors with some obtained otherwise or made ourselves. The total number of abstracts published in this present volume is 255, of which 104 (41%) have been supplied by Contributing Editors or the authors of the articles themselves, 48 (19%) have been taken from other periodicals, 63 (25%) have been adapted from authors' summaries, and 40 (16%) have been made by ourselves.

—H. W. Wade