

SUBJECT MATTER OF THE JOURNAL

The standard that will be attained and maintained by the Journal will depend in so unusual a degree upon the active co-operation of the members of the Association and others interested in the matter that a statement concerning plans for its contents is considered desirable.

1. *Original articles.*—It is naturally desired that the Journal shall be used as the medium of publication of as many worth-while original articles as possible. The term “worth-while” is used advisedly instead of “scientific”, for while it is intended that the Journal shall rank as a scientific periodical, it is not to be confined to technical papers. On the other hand, discrimination will naturally be required in the acceptance of material for publication.

It is to be understood that articles cannot be accepted for original publication if they have appeared elsewhere, or are to so appear prior to publication in the Journal. Such articles will be dealt with by abstracts or by reprinting.

As specified by the by-laws of the Association, articles will be published in the English, French, and German languages. It is to be realized that a large number of leprosy workers are English-reading, which makes that the most generally useful language. Articles submitted in the other two languages mentioned or in Spanish can be translated in Manila, if desired by the authors.

2. *Reprinted articles.*—Of articles which first appear in other publications, those deemed by the Editorial Board especially interesting or important will be selected for reprinting in full, if permission for this is received. In so reprinting articles, which is unusual among medical journals, the Journal follows the useful example set by LEPRA. The reason is perhaps obvious—the fact that many leprosy workers have very little medical literature at their disposal and will miss many important articles unless they are reprinted.

3. *Current Literature.*—It is a purpose of primary importance to print adequate abstracts of all articles on leprosy which are not printed in full. It is intended that the abstracts of articles worthy

of serious attention shall be sufficiently detailed to give an understanding of the contents of the articles rather than merely of the nature of their content. By decision of the Association Council abstracts are to appear in English, but they may be submitted in another language. Translation service available in Manila has been mentioned.

For this important material the Journal depends primarily upon the group of Contributing Editors. It is impossible to provide for a paid abstract service. However, since authors' abstracts are generally to be preferred to those prepared by others, readers are invited to submit abstracts of recent papers or reports written by them which have been published elsewhere. These will be especially designated as "authors' abstracts." It is to be said that, since the editorial office has no abstracting staff, the purpose will not be fulfilled by submitting reprints, though these are desired for the Journal's files and will be acknowledged. Books and other publications received will also be acknowledged. Book reviews will be published as received from the Contributing Editors.

4. *News Items*.—It is proposed to publish news of all noteworthy developments and events that are not dealt with in other sections, insofar as material for this is supplied. Items from official reports, scientific or lay magazines, and newspapers are desired provided they are reliable. News will include information concerning institutions, organizations, and individuals that dealt with leprosy, legislation, meetings and other activities, and kindred matter. If sufficient material is made available, a section of personal items may be set up.

News of the International Leprosy Association will be provided by the proper officers thereof, but the Contributing Editors and other readers will be depended upon for other matter.

5. *Correspondence*.—A department for "letters to the editor" will be included whenever there is material for it. There are many moot questions in leprosy, and sharp divergences of opinion among leprologists, and an open forum in which readers may carry on informal discussion should prove instructive, stimulating, and perhaps entertaining if the Journal's readers will make use of it.

6. *Editorials*.—After the opinions of various persons had been heard, it was decided that editorials should constitute a regular feature of the Journal. The Editorial Board hesitated lest it be thought that they might, however inadvertently, take advantage of their opportunities to stress unduly their own particular views. It has been

concluded that editorials will serve a useful purpose if they do no more than stimulate discussions for which the Correspondence section is intended.