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EDITORIALS

Editorials are written by members of the Editorial Board, and opinions expressed are those of the writers.

THE STATUS OF THE JOURNAL

Members of the International Leprosy Association who attended the general meeting held in Madrid on October 11, 1953, are aware—as, indeed, many others of our readers must be—of the increasingly heavy financial burden on the Leonard Wood Memorial involved in subsidizing the publication of THE JOURNAL, the official periodical of the Association.

As shown in the minutes of the meeting referred to (see pp. 555 and 556 of the Congress issue), Dr. James A. Doull, medical director of the Memorial, offered on behalf of that organization certain suggestions designed to alleviate the situation. One was that the subscription price—and hence, of course, the annual dues of the Association—be increased. After some discussion it was agreed—from the point of view of the Association—that the matter should be decided by the executive body after consultation with representatives of the Memorial. Although there has been no consultation as yet, we are informed by the representative of the Memorial that the present volume (22) should be the last one which is sold at five dollars.

Economies in the cost of publication, not mentioned at Madrid, are being effected as a result of action by the Memorial authorities beginning with this issue. First is the change of format that will have been noticed, the increase in size of the printed page from 26 x 44 picas to 30 x 46 picas (not including the page heading). This will permit a substantial increase in the number of words per page, and hence correspondingly fewer pages in the book—and less paper stock used. It has been agreed that the space between lines of type will not be decreased, for that would

make the text less readable. The larger page size now adopted is the same as is used by many first-class medical periodicals in the United States.

Another change adopted is that it will no longer be required that an original article shall begin on an odd-numbered page. That rule resulted, first and last, in the wastage of a material number of pages—nine in Volume 21 alone. What will be done about separates supplied authors, the procuring of which will at times be affected by the new rule of paging, we have not been informed.

While discussing matters affecting the periodical, there are two other things that should be said at this time. One is that, until we can catch back to our supposed publication date, which a combination of circumstances has caused to be increasingly delayed, the material of secondary nature will be greatly reduced or eliminated entirely. The main emphasis will be on the two most important sections, namely, original articles and abstracts. It is hoped that we can resume with the other departments, as before, in Volume 23 for 1955.

The other thing to be said is that, as of now, we will no longer refrain entirely from editorial comment on original articles published in our pages. This rule, which was adopted to avoid a possible atmosphere of paternalism on the part of the Editor, has on a few occasions led him to contribute—addressed to himself—items for the Correspondence section, which was rather straining the point. This newly assumed liberty will be used with discretion.

—H. W. WADE