

FROM THE JOURNAL OFFICE

RENEWALS

In publishing a periodical under conditions as unusual as those pertaining to the JOURNAL, the business office as well as the editorial office meet with questions that cannot be decided on quite the same basis as they would if the controlling organization were less spread out than is the International Leprosy Association. This remark is pertinent to the question of whether or not to distribute the first issue of a new year to the previous year's mailing list before notices of renewals have actually been received.

If a man in, let us say, Fiji postpones mailing his renewal of membership in the Association to the General Secretary-Treasurer in London until about Christmas, notice of renewal cannot be sent to Manila until at least the end of January, or be received and acted on there until some time in March. And, unquestionably, many a far-away member will be even less prompt than that. Consideration of the matter has led this office to two conclusions:

1. That it would be preferable to set the intended publication time for each issue as of the end of each quarter rather than the beginning—March instead of January, and so on. Thus there will be no reasonable chance of failure to receive a renewal before the *second* issue of a year is ready for mailing.

2. That it would be more consonant with the purposes of the Association and of the organization which aids it in supporting the JOURNAL if it should be assumed that all previous members and subscribers intend to renew, and to send them the first issue when printed, than to stand on the letter of the contract and withhold mailing it until notice of renewal has been actually received. There may be some losses if this is done, but there will doubtless be less dissatisfaction and certainly less delay.

Therefore, this issue is being mailed to all who are on last year's list. Anyone thereon who does not intend to renew his membership or subscription will thus receive this one issue of the 1934 volume. Since it will be unwanted it will be appreciated if the recipient will either return it to the publishing office or hand it to some person who may be interested in it.

REPRINTED ABSTRACTS

It has been considered of primary importance, since the inception of plans for the JOURNAL, that it should maintain a comprehensive abstract department. It was, naturally, the expectation that the articles appearing therein would be specially prepared for it. In the year and more that work on the JOURNAL has been actively under way valuable coöperation in this matter has been had from a number of persons in various parts of the world. On the other hand a large part of the world in this respect consists of what, to use radio parlance, might be called silent areas. At the moment this is written there is in hand for our next (sixth) issue not a single abstract provided us from abroad, though our card index of articles published shows a considerable number that have not been abstracted in our pages. The prospect at present is that in the next issue most of the abstracts printed will be taken from other publications.