

An Appeal to Authors

The "Current Literature" section of this *JOURNAL* is designed to summarize, on as broad a base as possible, the worldwide advances in leprosy research and practice.

In recent years, as interest in leprosy has markedly increased and drawn the attention of an increasing number of specialist investigators, reports of investigative findings and advances in therapeutic practices appear in an ever-broadening spectrum of world medical and para-medical publications. As noted in the above editorial report, the JOURNAL now has available monthly reference printouts from the National Medical Library via satellite-computer hook-up and also surveys CURRENT CONTENTS (Life Sciences) with weekly index. Additionally, this laboratory surveys a regular check-list of about 60 journals obtained from many countries by exchange or subscription. Nevertheless, once references are obtained from MEDLINE or CURRENT CONTENTS, the problem still remains of gaining access to the original publication for purposes of obtaining an abstract. Our library facilities are extremely helpful in these efforts, but it still is a time consuming process which strains the very limited editorial and publication

staff available to the JOURNAL. Though we have been building a respectable-sized file on addresses and biographical notes of leprosy workers around the world, it still is time consuming and adds to JOURNAL costs to attempt to write for reprints of all the papers for which we obtain references.

It would be very helpful to these efforts if authors would be kind enough to routinely send this office copies of reprints of their publications, as several laboratories and authors already do. For those publications which are not in the English language, it would be helpful to have attached a brief English summary, especially of the more important papers, since it is impossible for the limited JOURNAL staff to attempt the broad range of translations otherwise necessary. English summaries need not be highly polished. As long as we can understand their gist we are prepared to assume responsibility for their editorial appearances.

—OLAF K. SKINSNES