

# COMMENTARY



## A STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE . . .



With this first issue we have tried to put our best foot forward on the theory that, whether we like it or not, the first issues will set the tone for subsequent issues and that, by the very nature of things, changing this tone will be a slow, difficult, and perhaps impossible process. Nevertheless, we hasten to point out that we expect to see some changes in the issues to follow.

First, we propose that in the future this page be devoted to serious essays about subjects important to the nuclear profession. Because we don't profess to be capable of handling this task by ourselves except occasionally, we expect to draw heavily on

Guest Commentators. Our guest for the next issue will be Dr. Glenn Seaborg, Chairman of the USAEC.

Second, we hope that by the next issue we will have received several letters which will command publication in the "Letters to the Editor" Department.

Other changes for which we will strive in future issues will be a better balance of subject matter from one paper to the next and an expanded "Book Review" Department.

Your comments on these and other possible changes are of vital concern to us because this is *your* journal. If it doesn't suit you we want to know wherein it could be improved.

Please know that we consider it a privilege to review a manuscript and that service is the cornerstone around which our charter is built. As an example of this service, in this issue is a paper on the bending strength of Zircaloy. We felt this paper would be of some interest not merely to metallurgists but also to many to whom some of the terms used would be unfamiliar. When we asked the author to define several terms in the paper, he was reluctant to do so lest he appear to be "talking down" to the specialists for whom the paper is primarily intended. So we spent more time than we care to admit tracking down our own definitions (p. 48) and checking back with the author to make sure they were indeed, correct. We feel that this kind of treatment will be necessary probably in every issue because the wide scope of NUCLEAR APPLICATIONS should create a very diverse readership, and we are determined to make each article and note attractive to and read by as many readers as possible.

In our "Authors and Papers" Department we have tried to "abstract the abstract" so that the busy reader can see at a glance what each issue contains and can decide in what order to read the articles. The brief biographical material is intended both for a little human interest and to apprise the reader of the authority on which each paper is based.

The fact that nowadays readers are busy people is constantly on our minds as we lay out a format which we hope will be easy to read and as we establish a fixed pattern by which one can come to know where in each issue to find the articles of most interest to him. Even our *Author's Guide* has two pages of suggestions on how to write for rapid readers.

We hope that sooner or later NUCLEAR APPLICATIONS will come to exemplify the motto which for several years has been pasted on the front of our typewriter:

"With sufficient thought, care, and hard work everything we do can be of such high quality as to constitute a **standard of excellence** worthy of emulation by others; praise and glory be to God from whom such wisdom, love, and strength derive."

*Louis G. Stang, Jr.*