

LETTERS

Letters may contain opinion as well as fact. They should be confined to technical subjects of such a nature as to inappropriate for referee review.



AUTHORS ANONYMOUS

Dear Sir:

. . . As a consequence (of examining the February 1965 issue of NUCLEAR APPLICATIONS), I would like to make a few comments and suggestions . . .

As far as the overall format and some of the contents are concerned, it is necessary to decide whether NUCLEAR APPLICATIONS is a scientific journal or a news and trade magazine. I find, for a scientific journal, items like "What's New" and "New Patents" objectionable. They are, of course, appropriate in a news and trade magazine. Advertisements are not objectionable if they aid in defraying the cost of the journal and are limited to a very few of pleasing format (e.g. p. 2 and 93, not 4, 5, 87, 89, and 90) as long as they do not intrude on the scientific papers and, as suggested by others, they are not numbered with the scientific papers and may easily be discarded when the journals are bound.

Lastly is a matter that can be quite controversial. Many arguments can be made for pictures and biographies. In a magazine like INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, this is fine. However, a very strong reason for not having them, especially the biographies, is the question of whether an article is worthwhile or not on the basis of the authoritativeness of the author. Under these conditions, the young author suffers an extreme hardship since all he has to say is that he has a degree, if that, unless he is strengthened under the nepotic aegis of his sponsor. I think the latter is particularly bad. A paper should be read only on its own merits, not on the merits of the background of the author. (See for example Alfvén, SCIENCE, 23 April 1965). Very often suggestions have been made that referees should not be told the names of the authors—for this very reason. . . .

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SOPHISTICATED CONTROL OR SIMPLE CIRCUMVENTION?

Dear Sir,

Reference is made to the article, "The Evaluation and Measurement of Reactor Safety Performance" by H. J. Larson and K. Stratton, on page 225 of the June issue of NUCLEAR APPLICATIONS.

It is recognized that the stack release procedures described, as well as similar dilution-technique liquid-release procedures, are commonly utilized. Looking at the described stack release procedures from another angle, however, one may well describe the "sophisticated method for controlled venting" as a simple method for circumventing release limits.

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FOR A CLARIFICATION OF SCOPE

Dear Sir,

I believe I am echoing the opinion of many ANS members in the Radioisotopes & Applied Radiation field, that the first issues of NUCLEAR APPLICATIONS do not differ sufficiently in content from NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING to present the new journal as an obvious forum for people whose primary interests lie in radiochemistry, radiation processing, or radioisotope applications. A clearly stated editorial preference for papers on these subjects and on nuclear instrumentation may result initially in a very thin journal; however, unless a deliberate bias in favor of nonreactor nuclear technology is shown and proclaimed from the beginning, the new journal may never attract the papers for which it was designed.

I appreciate the difficulty you have in turning out a balanced journal covering much of the nonreactor nuclear technology, unless the input of papers is also representative of a wide range of areas. A clear statement of editorial policy is, therefore, desirable regarding the intended respective coverage of NUCLEAR APPLICATIONS and NUCLEAR SCIENCE & ENGINEERING.

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Ed. Note:

The following outline, which was summarized in NUCLEAR NEWS, pp 53-54, January, 1965, describes the intended coverage of NUCLEAR APPLICATIONS: