

Editorial

A Happy New Year to all our readers

As the new editor of this Journal, taking over responsibility for the first issue of 1981, I should like to pay tribute to my predecessor, Dr. R. F. Gordon, and to thank him for the help, guidance and encouragement he has given me. My task has been rendered relatively easy by the orderly manner in which the affairs of the journal have been passed over to me. My aims will be to maintain the high standards already achieved by Dr. Gordon and to serve the interests of the members of the Association in all its Branches all over the world.

Most members of the Association will have read of the changes, agreed by the Executive at Hamburg in September 1980, in the appearance and format of the WPSA Journal. It is hoped that these changes, as embodied in this first issue of 1981 will meet with general approval. Although there will in future be only three issues each year published in February, June and October, an increase in the number of pages of each copy and a larger format will enable more material to be printed and at no greater cost than previously. It should also be noted that the list of Associate Editors is not yet complete and it is intended to make further appointments in due course.

The first issue of 1981 is somewhat unusual in the treatment given to some of the material it contains. Salmonella infection in poultry is one of the most important problems facing the poultry industries of the world; not, as so often in the past, because of the ravages of the disease itself—outbreaks of salmonellosis are relatively uncommon to-day—but because of the difficulty of preventing the introduction of infection particularly in the case of broilers and turkeys and the consequent threat to public health that this represents. We are therefore, privileged to publish a major review article dealing with salmonella infection in poultry feeding stuffs. This paper is much longer than those normally accepted for this journal but, in view of the importance of the subject, it has been decided to publish it in full in three parts, two in this issue and one in June.

Also in this issue is another valuable contribution from Dr. J. E. Lancaster of Canada on the subject of Newcastle disease; the previous articles were published in Volume 32, No. 2, page 167 and Volume 33, No. 3, page 155; the last and final article will appear in June. Newcastle disease still causes serious mortality and economic loss in many parts of the world despite the availability of effective vaccines and the information contained in these further articles will be invaluable to those responsible for preventing loss from this disease.