



IT is not often that I use this page to discuss family matters. However, in these days in which awards are given for all sorts of meritorious service there is one group of people who deserve praise and appreciation which they seldom get. I want to drop a few words of appreciation to them.

A publication such as *THIS JOURNAL*, with a part-time, non-professional editor, cannot get along without a lot of help. I am sometimes amazed, always gratified, to discover how freely such help is given. *THIS JOURNAL* does not have as complicated a "referee system" as do the professional research journals but it depends very definitely upon the advice and help of many of its friends in the choice and selection of its editorial material. Manuscripts of any size or potential importance are generally read by two or more competent and impartial reviewers before acceptance or rejection. The field of chemical education is so broad and diffuse that it is impossible for an article to be important or useful to all the readers—perhaps even to a majority. But we do expect that every article will be interesting and valuable to *some*. The editor cannot always trust his own judgment but must try to get the representative views of some of his friends.

Reading manuscripts for this purpose is a chore, although some of our reviewers are kind enough to say that they often find it interesting. But it takes time and must interfere with other more important duties. For the first few times there is perhaps a subtle feeling of flattery that one's opinion is respected enough to ask, but later one must certainly begin to wonder why he is continually being made "the goat." The fact that we seldom hear complaints must be evidence that a surprising number of people are seriously interested in the success of publications like ours and that they feel a certain professional responsibility for that success. In any event, such cooperation and community of interest is certainly very gratifying; indeed, we couldn't very well get along without it. If some of our collaborators should read this—as I hope they will—I want them to know that we are profoundly grateful.