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JOURNAL OF SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS

FOREWORD

It has long been recognised by many workers that a journal dealing with methods of measurement and the theory, construction and use of instruments would have a great value as an aid to research in all branches of science and industry. There is at present no publication in the English language which covers this ground. Descriptions of instruments and methods of measurement are given in journals devoted to particular branches of science; but in such publications results are of primary importance and little space can be afforded to descriptions and detailed drawings of instruments. It frequently happens that instrumental methods are valuable for researches of quite a different character from that for which they were developed, and workers who may be interested in apparatus as distinct from results obtained may never see the publication in question, even if they know of its existence.

It is proposed that a journal on the lines suggested shall be produced by the Institute of Physics, which will ensure that the management shall be absolutely independent. It will be managed by a Finance Committee appointed by the Institute, on which the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and the National Physical Laboratory will be represented. The editorial work will be done at the National Physical Laboratory, assisted by a scientific Advisory Committee appointed by the Institute of Physics.

The expenses of the Journal will necessarily be considerable, as a high standard must be established and maintained, and it is doubtful whether receipts will cover expenditure, at any rate to begin with. Neither the Institute of Physics nor the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research has funds available to meet a deficit. Steps are being taken to raise a guarantee fund for the purpose.

Before it can be finally decided to publish the journal, it will be necessary to have some indication as to its probable circulation, and readers of this number are asked to notify their intention to subscribe on the accompanying form. It is proposed that the journal be issued monthly and be similar in style to this preliminary number. The price will be 2s. 6d. (postage 2d. extra), or 30s. a year, post free.

It is estimated that with a circulation of about 1000 there will be a deficit of some £2000 per annum, while a circulation of about 3000 will render the journal self-supporting.

Further particulars of the proposal are given later, together with specimen articles and a list of writers who have already expressed their willingness to contribute to the journal.

J. J. THOMSON,
President, Institute of Physics.