

## INTRODUCTORY NOTE

The efforts made by the contributors to international congresses to present their expert knowledge — often the fruit of several years of concentrated work — are very great and for this reason their papers should be made available in the best way possible. These papers merit easy access to other scientists for many years to come.

Formerly these contributions were published as congress-minutes but lately fewer such minutes were published, and in their place small summaries were the sole record of these important events. It was generally assumed that the original papers would be published in medical journals, but unfortunately this was often not the case.

The reason for the change in the evaluation of congress-minutes is not only the high costs of printing, but also the fact that these voluminous publications are not filed in the University and Hospital libraries in the proper manner, so that all too often they cannot be located. Thus more and more scientists are disappointed and reject minutes as an adequate and satisfactory way of publication.

For these reasons the Executive Committee of the International Audiological Society has decided to found a new Journal as its permanent record in which all papers and discussions of all forthcoming congresses are to be published and in which members will have the opportunity to present other work in a more readily accessible form to an international forum. Moreover this Journal might become the official organ of the different national audiological societies, which up to now publish their proceedings too often only in their own language.

As an innovation and accordingly as an experiment the papers of the three Round Tables of the Leiden Congress will be sent to members as drafts in order to enable them to prepare their discussions in advance. They are also requested to send these discussions before the meeting of the congress to the congress-committee, which will transmit them to the Round-Table members concerned.

As the result, at the congress, the Round-Table members may limit themselves to the basic concepts of their papers as seen against the background of the questions they will have to answer. Thus the problems involved will be treated on a higher level and the discussions at the congress promise to be more worthwhile.

The working languages will in accordance with international usage be English or French. Each paper will be followed by an extensive summary in the other language. The permanent editorial board will consist of three members including one from an English and one from a French speaking country.

Initially two or three issues will be published per year, which will be sent free of charge to the members of the International Audiological Society. In addition other subscribers are also welcome.

We sincerely hope that with the active help of all scientists interested in Audiology, this journal will be able to achieve and to maintain a prominent position in international scientific life.

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