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EDITOR'S PREFACE

This issue marks the halfway point in my tenure as editor. My role as editor continues to be a challenging and richly rewarding experience. The continued support of Dr. W. L. Harris, Director of the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station and Mrs. V. B. Smith, Assistant Editor, has been essential to the success of this endeavor. Another important source of support is one that is often overlooked. I would like to thank the editorial board and those members of the profession who served as anonymous reviewers of submitted manuscripts. Reviewing an article is often a thankless task. But the anonymous peer review utilized in a professional journal is an essential element in maintaining professional integrity and furthering the knowledge of the discipline.

During the preceeding year, twenty-six manuscripts were submitted for consideration. Of these, seven were accepted and are published in

this issue. In addition, seven articles representing the complete symposia from the June meetings are included in this issue. There is also a comment on an earlier article. The authors of the original article were given several months to prepare a reply. If a response is forthcoming at a later date, it will be published.

One of the functions of a professional journal is to serve as a forum for ideas. This means that comments and criticisms of previous articles play an important role in sharpening our thought processes. The active interchange of ideas through a journal represents a marketplace of minds where the value of ideas can be ascertained. It is a privilege to participate in such an activity.

During the Council meetings this June in Vermont, there will be a symposium dedicated to discussing the role of the JNAEC. Each of you has a stake in this discussion. I look forward to seeing all of you there.