

December 30, 1969

On January 7, 1970, the first issues of two new *Current Contents*<sup>®</sup> services will appear. The interest already shown in these services is gratifying. I am confident that eventually each will find its place in the scientific community.

The most commonly expressed fear of Current Contents/Life Sciences readers-mainly veterinary scientists-is that we will discontinue coverage of the veterinary journals in  $CC^{P}LS$ . This fear is unwarranted. We never planned to drop the present limited coverage of this field. In CC/Ag-Food-Vet, however, we will aim towards comprehensive coverage of agriculture, and in many countries agriculture is almost synonymous with animal production. Their interest in veterinary science is understandable.

Similarly, in *Current Contents/Physical Sciences* we cover many engineering and technology areas, but we cannot hope to be absolutely comprehensive in those subjects. In our new *Current Contents/Engineering and Technology* we will aim for comprehensiveness in the applied aspects of engineering and technology. In *CC/PS* we stress the basic sciences.

It requires a keen perception of the vague and indefinable boundaries between all these vertical and horizontal aspects of science and technology to please enough people to justify a new *Current Contents* edition. Overlap between the seven different CC's is frequent and necessary.

An important tool at our disposal in studying this problem is the Science Citation Index<sup>®</sup> The computer data base from which the SCI<sup>®</sup> is compiled is being used to compile a so-called Journal Citation Index<sup>T.M.</sup>For each of several thousand journals we now have statistics which show the citation relationship between them. In this way we gain insight concerning the similarity between journals. If we are certain that a particular journal is a "core" journal in a CC edition then we can determine the dozen or more journals that cite it most, as well as those which it cites most. These impact factors<sup>1</sup> help support subjective opinions of our editorial advisory boards and other criteria<sup>2</sup>. However, the expressed opinions of our readers are always given careful attention. We urge you to let us know the name and address of any important journal that is missing from any edition of Current Contents.

- Garfield, E., and Sher, I.H., "New Factors in the Evaluation of Scientific Literature through Citation Indexing", American Documentation 14(3), 195-201, (1963).
- (2) Martyn, J., and Gilchrist, A., "An Evaluation of British Scientific Journals", ASLIB Occasional Publication No. 1, London, England, (1968), 51 pp.