

TECHNICAL EDITOR'S PAGE

This issue marks the close of the term of the undersigned as Technical Editor of the JOURNAL OF PRESSURE VESSEL TECHNOLOGY. This term was a period of major change in the contents of the Journal on account of the transfer of Petroleum Division papers to a new journal sponsored by that division. Today, the Journal consists almost entirely of papers contributed through the offices of the Pressure Vessels and Piping Division, although manuscripts processed by other divisions continue to find their way in print in these pages.

We have had the opportunity, in this column, to comment about various aspects of the process of publication. Overall, our ambition has been to prompt the submittal of more papers than are now received for consideration. We are tempted to use the term "quality" papers, but upon some thought it becomes clear that the refereeing process, which is undertaken only after the paper is submitted, is the relevant judge of quality. We look for this process, which is admittedly imperfect, to function as the gatekeeper on the road to the standards expected of the ASME transactions.

One matter, discussed previously on this page, deserves emphasis. It pertains to the desirability of publishing more papers with an orientation towards the problems confronted in design practice. There is surely more scope for these than has heretofore been found in the Journal. From the vantage point of the Technical Editor the problem resides in the relatively few papers of this type that have been submitted for consideration. Yet, others believe that a bias against papers of

interest to practitioners in the editorial decision-making process tends to discourage the submittal of this type of paper. Perhaps the answer exists in a combination of both circumstances. If this is so, we wish to take this opportunity to encourage those engaged in design practice to describe, in manuscript form, any innovative and technologically advanced developments that they are able to share with the readership of this Journal.

In a maneuver reminiscent of baseball managerial shifts, the role of Technical Editor reverts to the capable hands of Dr. Robert E. Nickell. Bob held this same post for the three years prior to the incumbent. He is now completing his term as chairman of the Pressure Vessels and Piping Division and brings to the editorship a unique understanding of professional and divisional concerns and of both theory and practice. He is slated for a long term as editor, which we are confident will enable him to solidify the position of the Journal as the leading archival publication in this field.

In closing, our deepest thanks go out to the Associate Editors, listed on the facing page. They handle the full process of paper review and, with the referees themselves (to whom we also express our thanks), shoulder the major burdens of the technical review process.

Richard H. Gallagher