

at the moment, but your officers are looking into various possibilities and would welcome suggestions from you.

These are all desirable objectives, to be sure, but it is questionable if they alone are sufficient justification for the existence of an association that chooses to term itself "National." The life sciences have so much to contribute to human welfare that we dare not coast along, complacently defending biology as a school science and knowing all along that it is losing ground. Paraphrasing the Bard of Avon, the fault may not reside wholly in the "Powers that be," but in ourselves. He among us would be audacious indeed who would aver that we as biology teachers have given or are giving to the future citizens of this nation the very best that biology has to offer. The time may be at hand when it would be the part of wisdom to cease rationalizing, to shed complacency, and to assume a more positive attitude. Maybe it will be necessary to alter our entire approach to the teaching of our science. Something of the sort would seem to be indicated by certain of the articles that have appeared in the *Journal* as, for example, the leading article in the February, 1940, number.

What I should like to know is to what extent such an attitude is abroad in the land, and to what extent a radical departure from the traditional is justified on the basis of expediency, educational philosophy and the needs of young people. As indicated above, your association is already cooperating with a National Science Committee that has been deliberating on such matters for two years. Should we wait for the report of findings of this committee or should we anticipate this report and begin to make our own adjustments right now?

The presidency of a National Association of Biology Teachers at this time is not something to be undertaken lightly. Leadership is not doing something for the mere sake of doing it. It must be borne in mind that the 1940-41 officers wish to represent you.

GEORGE W. JEFFERS

## WE ENTER A THIRD YEAR

With this issue *THE AMERICAN BIOLOGY TEACHER* begins its third year of successful publication. As a result of the generous support of many persons—contributors of manuscripts, advertisers, subscribers, officers of the association, and members of the editorial and advisory staff—the most difficult period in the life of a new journal has been safely passed. We look to the future with confidence, soliciting the continued cooperation of all those who in the past have found our pages of value. Our aim is to make the magazine still more useful to teachers, and through them to improve the quality of the biology taught to our students. In this we shall all be making our greatest contribution to the welfare of the nation.

There are at least two ways in which you can help to make your magazine still more useful: first, by advertising it among teachers who are not members of the association, and who may even never have heard of its existence; and second, by sending in your own written contribution of experience or ideas. Short articles and notes, including news items, are especially welcome. If you have a question in the field of biology we shall attempt to obtain and publish an answer from an expert. All letters of general interest will, so far as space permits, be published promptly. May we hear from you?