EDITOR'S PAGE

This, the first issue of the Journal of the American Biological Safety Association, carries a clear message that ABSA has become a mature scientific association of scientists and engineers with a common technical knowledge and experience of a special nature that is important for maintenance of health and safety of workers and public. An association journal makes it possible to share knowledge and experience about biological safety matters with colleagues and a much wider audience, one of the most important functions of scientific associations. Whereas, ABSA has been serving its own members' needs for information exchange since its inception through annual meetings and a newsletter, it now has an opportunity for outreach as well. The Association makes a distinctive publication through the interests and participation of its own membership, but in another sense, the Journal makes the Association by reflecting in its pages the seriousness and importance of its concerns as well as the competence and achievements of its membership.

It is entirely fitting that this, the first issue, should contain a previously unpublished paper by Dr. Weedum, a founder and, by common consent, a guiding star of the Association to this day. Additional unpublished papers of Dr. Weedum courtesy of Dr. Emmett Barkley will follow in subsequent issues. It is also fitting that the history of ABSA, prepared by past president Manny Barbeito and Weedum awardee Richard Kruse, will appear in later issues of the Journal, other segments will follow.

In addition to the historical document, there are two technical papers on topics of current interest and, we believe, of singular importance. The recent proliferation of BL-3 facilities is notable but their validation as secure confinement facilities has not been standardized. Therefore, there is interest in how some have gone about it. The question of HEPA filter deterioration during prolonged service has no currently satisfactory answer but the subject is, nonetheless, a matter of serious concern considering our dependence on them for supply and discharge air decontamination.

The three articles in the current issue are illustrative of the range of papers that will appear in JABSA: historic documents not previously published, histories of important events, technical papers, short notes, "how to" articles; in short, all items of technical interest to members of ABSA.
Papers of all the types cited are needed to fulfill the promise of JABSA. Three copies should be submitted for review to the Editor, c/o ABSA National Office. The appropriate format for text, citations, and illustrations is included in this issue, and has been published in the September, 1996 ABSA News letter.

Melvin W. First, Editor

Members of the Editorial Committee
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