

EDITORIAL

New Editorial Procedures for the Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences

At their fall meetings the Publications Commission and the Council approved new editorial procedures for the *Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences*. These went into effect on 1 February 1977.

The new arrangement provides for a Chief Editor, an Assistant Chief Editor and three Editors. New manuscripts must be sent to the Chief Editor, who assigns each manuscript to one of the five Editors. The Editor so designated has the responsibility and authority for securing appropriate reviews, for corresponding directly with the author, and for reaching an editorial decision about publication. As in the past, the Editors will be assisted by a group of Associate Editors.

The reasons for this decentralization of editorial responsibility were set forth by Publications Commissioner Hilst in his article in the May 1976 issue of the *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society*. The *Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences* receives an average of 6–7 new manuscripts each week, with each manuscript ultimately requiring several editorial decisions. Many of the decisions are difficult ones, in the frequent cases of conflicting reviews and rebuttals. The sheer volume of work is too much for one or two unpaid individuals to handle over an extended period of time, even with the help of capable Associate Editors who advise but do not have the final responsibility to decide.

The new system will give each Editor a smaller volume of manuscripts which are more closely related to his own experience and background. This should lead to an acceleration of the review process and to better editorial judgments.

The objective of JAS, as stated on the inside front cover, remains unchanged. We hope and expect that the new procedures will enable the JOURNAL to maintain its position as an outstanding medium for the publication of basic research in the broad field of the Atmospheric Sciences.

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