EDITORIAL STATEMENT

Half life of C^{14}. In accordance with the decision of the Fifth Radiocarbon Dating Conference, Cambridge, 1962, **all dates published in this volume (Volume 5) are based on the Libby value, 5570 + 30 yr,** for the half life. The decision of the Conference gains time for further study, not only of the half life, but of other uncertainties, before republication of all dates is agreed upon. As stated in Professor Harry Godwin's letter to **Nature** (v. 195, no. 4845, p. 984, September 8, 1962), the mean of three new determinations of the half life, 5730 $\pm$ 40 yr, is regarded as the best value now obtainable. Conversion of published dates to this basis is accomplished by multiplying them by 1.03.

A.D./B.C. dates. As A.D. 1950 is now accepted as the standard year of reference for dates B.P., no ambiguity results from the usual mode of reporting. Many users of dates find it inconvenient, however, and in deference to their wishes we begin, in this volume, the practice of reporting dates in both systems. Although many geologists and geochemists will consider such a date as "23,500 B.C." to be silly, we have asked the laboratories to follow the new practice for all finite dates, very old as well as recent, and to make exception only for infinite dates. Probably most persons would regard "older than 47,000 B.C." as silly.

Comprehensive index. Plans are still incomplete for publication, probably as a supplement to **Radiocarbon,** of a comprehensive index to all published C^{14} measurements, arranged by laboratory and by sample number, with corrections made necessary for any reason. Meanwhile, we call attention to the useful index prepared by Arthur A. Jelinek **(Current Anthropology,** v. 3, p. 451-477, 1962), in which dates of archaeologic interest are arranged geographically and chronologically.