

## EDITORIAL

Many members may already know that I reluctantly tendered my resignation from the post as Editor, from the end of Vol. 36., indeed with the production of this issue, on the grounds of ill health and inability to travel to attend meetings of Council in foreign countries. I would wish to take this final opportunity to thank members for their contributions, in particular those Associate Editors who have carried out the thankless task of translating papers—Drs. Werner Hartmant, Merat, and latterly Mrs. Selina, also Associate members Chris Hann, Lancaster and Shaklee for their help.

I am personally grateful to the help given by the Production Manager, first the late George May and since his death by Miss M. C. French. We all thank Dr. Coles for his untiring help and advice.

The task has not been an easy one, bedevilled throughout by inflation in printing and postal costs. The Association has a difficult task to maintain the Journal finances on an even keel in the future and may have to face further changes.

I feel sure that members and Council will give the same support to my successor. I wish him and the Journal every success in the future.

Since I penned my valedictory Editorial, the Executive Committee met at Hamburg on Sept. 7th (see minutes page 000 of this issue) and appointed Mr. J. David Blaxland as my successor and retained my services as Consultant Editor for a period to ensure a smooth transition, especially as there is to be a change in format of the Journal. This gives the opportunity of introducing David Blaxland to readers with a brief summary of his career and to wish him all success in the post.

David Blaxland trained at the Royal Veterinary College, London, qualifying as a M.R.C.V.S. in 1936. After 2 years as a house surgeon at the R.V.C. hospital he joined the field staff of the Animal Health division of the Ministry of Agriculture and 3 years later he transferred to the Central Veterinary Laboratory, New Haw, Weybridge as a Research Officer and became assistant to myself in the Poultry Diagnosis and

Investigation Department. In 1948 he was promoted to Senior Research Officer, and succeeded me as head of the Department.

In 1962 he left to join Wellcome Research Laboratories and was responsible for developing and servicing Avian Vaccines. In 1972 he joined Scientific Agribusiness Consultants International Ltd., with much the same duties. In 1974 he was reappointed to the Ministry of Agriculture Staff and was promoted to be National Poultry Health Adviser. He retired from the Ministry Service in 1978 and became poultry specialist to a general veterinary practice.

In 1964 he was awarded Fellowship of the R.C.V.S. for meritorious contributions to learning. He has been a member of the W.P.S.A. since the 1940's and was a representative for the U.K. Branch on council. For some 14 years he was a scientific editor of Research in Veterinary Science and is a past president of the British Veterinary Poultry Association. Blaxland has published widely on poultry diseases with over 50 papers to his name.

It will be obvious that David Blaxland is well qualified to edit the W.P.S.A. Journal. I feel sure that he will receive the same support from members as I have enjoyed.

R. F. Gordon