

# Letter from the Editor

In the December issue of the *Journal*, the news section carried an item entitled, "What Kind of a Member Are You?" (*JNMT* 2:131, 1974), which was published in an effort to stimulate more technologist participation in the affairs of the Section. It has been my experience that there are several factors contributing to the lack of technologist involvement: *apprehension* in expressing oneself, *inexperience* in the affairs of the Section, and *apathy*.

Apprehension and inexperience can be overcome only by exposure. Do not be afraid to convey your ideas to other members. Although you may feel that you have no pertinent input to contribute, speak up anyway. What you have to say could be valuable. Begin by getting your feet wet at the local level and then progress to the Chapter and National levels. Remember that there was a time when your National Chapter Delegates and Section officers were inexperienced. As far as apathy is concerned, if anyone has a cure for it, please step forward and let it be known.

Keeping these factors in mind, the Publications Committee has introduced or will be introducing some new features in the *Journal* that should encourage more contributions by technologists. One feature is the publication of short articles and another is the publication of more book reviews.

**Short articles.** Most articles published to date have been authored by technologists and physicians at large community hospitals or university medical centers. Technologists at the smaller hospitals are somewhat reluctant to submit articles for publication due to lack of time and facilities or lack of writing experience.

Although you may not be in a position to write a full-length scientific article for publication, your work can still be published. Why not submit a *short article*? Short articles take the form of contributions to the "Gadgetry" section, which was introduced in the September 1974 issue and which features articles on devices that are designed and constructed in nuclear medicine laboratories to fill a specific need or expedite a procedure. Another type of short article is the "Case of the Quarter," a feature being introduced in this issue (see p. 47). Essentially, this type of article is a report of a case with which some technical or clinical problems were experienced, with a scan or in vitro study, for example. This type of article is easy to organize since the format is simple: an introduction describing the problem, for example, a case history, diagnostic techniques used, discussion and illustration demonstrating the problem, at least five possible solutions to the problem, the correct answer, and a discussion to include as supportive evidence any reference(s) and/or illustration(s) that might be applicable. Surely everyone comes across one interesting and unusual case over a three-month period that others would be interested in reading about. Why not give it a try?

**Book reviews.** It is the opinion of the Publications Committee that improvement is definitely needed in both the quantity and quality of the "Bookshelf" section. Presently one member of the Publications Committee and one member of the Continuing Education Committee are providing the reviews. Since other responsibilities have increased for them over the past few months, it has become necessary to establish a technologist book review staff. Book review staff members will be responsible for obtaining and reviewing recently published books for publication in the *Journal*. If you are interested in becoming a member of this staff, please contact me.

The Publications Committee is continuously seeking ways to expand the contents of the *Journal* in order to provide readers with a variety of subject matter that will broaden their knowledge of the field. We can only accomplish this through your input. The opportunity is yours for the asking. Here is your chance to shed your apprehensions and get some experience by GETTING INVOLVED!

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*Editor*