

Foreword

Probably few people read editorials anyway, but with a Scientific Association like the EDTA which is also, one hopes, a club of people who know each other well, it still seems worth writing a few words.

This is the largest volume of the Proceedings to appear so far. This is principally because of the decision of Council to include Discussion of Papers and the Round Table on transplantation. We have edited the discussion lightly and only sent copy to the author of the discussion when we were unsure of the content, or when illustrations were needed. We hope discussants will find their views reflected accurately. We feel that discussions should be printed alongside the appropriate papers rather than grouped together, and have adopted this format, as David Kerr did in the past.

Last year we commended authors on the delivery of their manuscripts, but castigated them for not reading the "Notes to Contributors" (on page 576). This year things were better: more papers had been written to the right length and the right format and there was a notable improvement in the style and completeness of references to the literature, which took up so much time last year. It pays to see that your reference list is complete and accurate; *we do not check the accuracy of your references*—only whether they are complete or not. This year, however, we still want to complain; illustrations could be much better. Perceptive members will see that this part of the "Notes to Contributors" has been improved and made more precise.

One might say that all this is the Editor's job, and so it is. But we *must* publish the Proceedings of your association quickly if they are to be of the greatest value to you and to others. If we are to have time to edit discussion and Round Tables then the manuscripts of the papers must require as little work as possible from us.

The Editorial Review this year is by Dr Bill Muir and entitled "The Choice". In it he considers the different types of apparatus that may be used for the removal of uraemic toxins, and the numerous problems—technical, financial and political—that face anyone attempting to develop a new dialyser. We would like to thank him for the large amount of work he has done. Last year we asked for suggestions for the titles of future Editorial Reviews: we received only one. Surely you, as members of the Association, are more interested in your work than that?

Finally, you can help the Association. All may not realise that the finances of the Association are intimately tied up with the publication of the Proceedings, and in turn upon its financial success. In other words, at the very least we must not lose money on making and distributing this record of our activities. You can help in two ways. The first is advertising. Most of you have contact with commercial firms connected with dialysis and transplantation. If you know of one in your country which has not yet taken an advertisement in the Proceedings, then please do two things: give us the address of the manufacturer, and use your influence on him to see that he buys space in our publication. The second thing is to advertise the Proceedings by referring to it and seeing that it is around when dialysers and transplanters meet. Particularly, our Associate members in the USA can help since awareness and sales of the Proceedings in the large dialysis and transplant community in the USA leave much to be desired.

Finally, as last year, let us have your comments on any aspects of the Proceedings—they belong to you and are the record of your activity.

STEWART CAMERON AND CHISHOLM OGG