

EDITORIAL

As announced in a leaflet enclosed with the September 1972 issue of *Polar Record*, the editorial committee has been considering ways and means of improving the service to users provided by the bibliography *Recent Polar Literature*. Commencing with the January 1973 issue, the bibliography has been published separately from the parent journal, printed by photolithography direct from the Institute's standard library cards. The savings effected by the change-over from letterpress have allowed an increase of about 20 per cent in the number of abstracts listed. The new system permits a number of other potential advantages, including author indexes and cumulations of individual parts. The adoption of some of these undoubtedly advantageous extras would, of course, add to the cost of production, some of which would inevitably have to be passed on to the user. Before committing itself to anything more elaborate than the present three annual issues without an index, the editorial committee felt that it would be prudent to sound the opinion of users. A questionnaire, enclosed with the January 1973 issue of *Polar Record*, asked users to state their preferences for a bibliography with or without indexes and cumulations and to indicate the uses to which they put this publication. Once these questionnaires have been returned and analysed, the committee will be able to decide on the final form that *Recent Polar Literature* should take. Details of its decision will be published in *Polar Record*.