

EDITORIAL

This copy represents our first "real" issue of the EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF PARAPSYCHOLOGY. Since our demonstration copy was issued our editorial staff has been extended to include a number of regional editors. We are proud to announce that we have succeeded in securing the cooperation of such distinguished parapsychologists and experienced authors as Dr. John Beloff and Dr. Hans Bender. We are also very grateful for the qualified help that Dr. Rolf Ejvegard in Sweden, Dr. Erlendur Haraldsson in Iceland, and Dr. John Mischo in W.Germany have promised to render us. We shall continue to work hard extending the editorial staff in such a way that as many European countries as possible will be represented on the editorial staff. It ought however be emphasized, that the regional editors should not in any way be held responsible for the acceptance of contributions for publication which are submitted from authors outside their respective region.

The name: EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF PARAPSYCHOLOGY does not in any way imply that the journal is intended as a mouthpiece for exclusively European contributors. We shall welcome contributions from all corners of the world. We would ask potential contributors to notice that they should send their manuscripts to their regional editor(s) if this is possible in their particular case. If not, they should send their manuscript directly to the address given for this journal.

As far as experimental articles are concerned, we would like to ask potential contributors to try and adhere to the publishing policy which we have outlined in the editorial of the demonstration copy, and which is also discussed at some length in the article: Models of Bias and Control of Bias, in this issue. In short we shall try to avoid selective reporting and yet at the same time we shall try to refrain from making our journal a graveyard for all those studies which did not "turn out". These objectives may be fulfilled by the editorial rule of basing our judgment entirely on our impressions of the quality of the design and methodology of the planned study. The acceptance or rejection of a manuscript should if possible take place prior to the carrying out and the evaluation of the results of the study.

The way in which we view the policy of publishing is rather different from the approach which Dr. J.B. Rhine, the nestor of

experimental parapsychology, has put forward in the Comments section of the Journal of Parapsychology (see The Journal of Parapsychology, June 1975, 135-141). One should be aware that differences of opinion as regards what constitutes a "good" method and a "sound" research programme, are by no means exceptional. No paradigm or opinion in science is beyond criticism. On the contrary, we tend to believe that the growth of scientific knowledge is to a considerable extent dependent on the existence of competing research programmes, or ideals of science. "If two teams, pursuing rival research programmes, compete, the one with the more creative talent is likely to succeed - unless God punishes them with an extreme lack of empirical success", as Imre Lakatos once put it.¹⁾ This is probably true, even acknowledging the risk that human creative imagination is likely to find corroboration and new "facts" supporting a certain view, although very "odd" or "absurd" ideas may be involved.

1) "Criticism and the Growth of Knowledge". Edited by Imry Lakatos and Alan Musgrave. Cambridge University Press, 1970, p. 187.

Martin Johnson

Sybo A. Schouten