Types of Articles for Science

To assure publication of papers with a minimum of delay and to provide readers with subject matter of a wide range and general interest, the AAAS Editorial Board reaffirms and restates the following policies.

Papers submitted by members and nonmembers of the AAAS will receive equal consideration for publication. Material that is not considered suitable for publication by the board of editors will be returned to the author, and it cannot be the subject of continuing correspondence.

1) Lead articles. Lead articles varying in length from about 1000 to 10,000 words are invited for consideration. These may be general articles or reviews of recent advances in some field. Authors should keep in mind the broad audience of Science and should employ reasonably nontechnical language that will be intelligible to most readers.

2) Technical papers. Only under exceptional circumstances, such as suitability for conversion to a lead article, will any technical paper of more than four double-spaced, typewritten pages (about 1200 words) be accepted for publication. This includes space occupied by figures, tables, and references. Most papers should be limited to about 800 words. However, statements of conclusions without supporting data will not be accepted. Such data should be included to the extent necessary, particularly in the form of concise tables. In general, it is inadvisable to submit more than one figure and one table.

3) Communications. Communications varying in length from several sentences to approximately 600 words will usually be given priority for publication. These may be reports of significant research that for some reason cannot be presented as technical papers, or they may be brief comments of the "Letter to the Editor" type. For the former, supporting data should be included or else a comprehensive account of the work should accompany the communication for the guidance of the referees.

Every effort will be made to publish papers promptly. This will require the cooperation of authors, who should follow these suggestions: (i) give special attention to concise expressions; (ii) supply clear figures that unquestionably are suitable for reproduction; (iii) see that manuscripts are submitted in the form used by Science, especially with regard to references, figure legends, table headings, and abbreviations; (iv) on the galley proof, limit alterations to typographic and factual errors; (v) return galley proof promptly.

All manuscripts should be typed with double spacing and submitted in duplicate in order to expedite reviewing by referees and editorial processing. In the event that a paper is returned to an author for revision, one copy will be retained in the editorial office pending final disposition.

For more specific information on the preparation of typescripts and illustrations, see Science for 8 April 1955, page 7A.