

THE PHYSIOLOGY TEACHER - A PROGRESS REPORT AND A REQUEST

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The Physiology Teacher, newest publication of the American Physiological Society, began with the April 1971 issue. This small quarterly was founded in response to a concern expressed to the Education Committee by teachers of collegiate undergraduate courses in physiology. The teachers felt a need for a source of information about current physiological topics, laboratory experiments and demonstrations and a forum for discussion of problems connected with the teaching of physiology.

Each issue of the publication has carried an experimental protocol. There has been a column of "Questions and Answers" which presented short discussions of topics suitable for incorporating into physiology lectures. These have included such topics as the physiological events leading to death from drowning and a discussion of the functional role of brown fat. Book reviews of texts in physiology and of volumes which might serve as the basis for seminars are carried, as are articles dealing with new methods of presentation of physiology to students. Announcements of workshops and society refresher courses and a modest amount of advertising, particularly advertisements of laboratory devices suitable for use in teaching are also included. We anticipate the addition of new features and welcome suggestions from physiologists and teachers of physiology as to what may interest them.

The first two issues of The Physiology Teacher were distributed free to a mailing list of 30,000 individuals. The response to these issues was excellent. Sufficient subscription orders followed so that the journal will be self-supporting in 1972. (The time of the editors is, of course, contributed and the APS staff time is not charged against the publication's budget). Advertising has not been pursued aggressively but has been accepted when it provides information useful to the readers. The income from advertising has enabled us to improve the quality of the printing and format and to occasionally increase the size of the publication from eight to sixteen pages.

At the present writing it appears that subscriptions, advertising, and a most welcome subsidy of \$3,000 from the Harvard Apparatus Company will result in the first six issues, including the two promotional issues, being published and distributed at no monetary expense to the APS membership.

However, the APS members must be relied on for a different type of contribution. They represent the source of the necessary content material to make The Physiology Teacher a continuing success. The most important item in each issue is a well-described physiology laboratory experiment.

Experiments so far presented are:

"Control of Respiration Studied by Voluntary Apnea (Breath Holding)".

Brian A. Curtis, Tufts University

"Individualities of Smooth Muscle Function and Control: A Comparison of Aortic Muscle and Longitudinal Muscle of the Small Intestine".

David F. Bohr, Univ. of Michigan

"Action of Antidiuretic Hormones and Its Intermediate, Cyclic AMP, on Water Reabsorption from the Toad Bladder".

G. A. Rinard and J. D. Neill, Emory University

"Autorhythometry - Procedures for Physiologic Self-Measurements and Their Analysis".

Franz Halberg, Eugene A. Johnson, Walter Nelson,
Walter Runge and Robert Sothorn, Univ. of Minnesota

"A Classroom Method for the Determination of Oxygen Dissociation Curves of Hemocyanins".

John J. Poluhowich and Peter Krinsky, Univ. of Bridgeport

Similar experiments which do not require expensive and complex equipment are needed for future issues. These should be 12-13 double-spaced pages in length, including figures. Short (3-4 pages typed double spaced) papers on educational experiments, useful teaching equipment, materials and methods are desired. Questions (and answers) on physiological topics of current interest, and book reviews (1-2 pages) would also be gratefully received.

A recent analysis of the subscription list showed 64% of the subscribers to be in the undergraduate departments of colleges and universities; 12% are affiliated with medical school departments, 2% are in unaffiliated health professional schools and 3% high schools. A group of 5% are in hospitals, research institutes and Governmental laboratories and 14% of subscribers are individuals whose address does not indicate their affiliation. (Many of these we know are teachers or physiologists subscribing at home). 98% of the subscriptions are from North America, the remaining 2% being widely scattered to all continents.

The members of the APS have, through the medium of The Physiology Teacher, an opportunity to exert an impact on education in physiology at several levels in our society. With your help the editors hope to meet this challenge.