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EDITORIAL

It is with great pleasure that I write to acknowledge the sterling service performed to the scientific community and to the Royal Society by Professor John Enderby as Editor of *Proceedings: Mathematical and Physical Sciences*, Series A, over the past four years. These four years have seen radical changes to *Proceedings A*. In July 1990 the Royal Society re-launched its *Proceedings* and *Transactions*, with a fresh look, the institution of several new features, and with new editorial and management structures. New submission mechanisms were introduced, and Rapid Communications instituted for *Proceedings A*. Submission of articles on disk began in 1992, with the first paper typeset using T_EX appearing in April 1993. The Rapid Communications found early favour, and I have no doubt that this feature of *Proceedings A* will continue to grow in popularity as publication delays continue to increase in most other journals (one Rapid Communication appeared within ten weeks of its submission to the Society). Setting by using T_EX files submitted by authors is also certain to increase in popularity, and could significantly reduce publication times and costs, as well as reducing errors. I am pleased to have a paper of my own, submitted in this way, included in this number of *Proceedings A*, and will watch with real interest as the Society refines its procedures for T_EX submission and publishing. For the introduction of all these features we thank Professor Enderby. A measure of his success in all of this is that the number of papers submitted annually to *Proceedings A* has more than doubled since 1989. With only limited resources available to expand the number of pages published in *Proceedings A*, this has inevitably meant a significant increase in the rejection rate, good though the increase may in itself be for the quality of the journal. All possible efforts will be made in the future, as in the past, to achieve the most rapid refereeing (consistent with the need for referees to be able to give a paper a due measure of time for consideration) to ensure that authors of all papers, accepted or rejected, are informed as promptly as possible. The Royal Society has been very well served by its referees for *Proceedings A* in the past, and I warmly acknowledge their invaluable role in maintaining the quality of the journal while seeking their continued loyalty and commitment in the future.

In taking over as Editor from Professor Enderby, I shall try to maintain the interest, excitement and quality of papers published in *Proceedings A* across the whole range of the physical and mathematical sciences; I look forward very much to working with the members of the Editorial Board, and with the staff in the Editorial and Production Departments of the Royal Society.

D. G. CRIGHTON
November 1993