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Editorial

IN times of recession, cuts, and uncertainties, it is good to find that research in the History of Science seems to be going on as well as ever. The flow of books to our Reviews Editor keeps up, and excellent papers on a wide range of themes and periods come in to the Editorial Board. An editor always fancies that he occupies the hub of the universe, but starts to believe it when he has the pleasure of accepting papers not only from Britain but also from Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Japan and the U.S.A. It is very gratifying that Council has agreed that issues of the Journal may continue to be 112 pages long, so that we can do justice to our contributors, book-reviewers, and readers.

This does not mean that authors have infinite space, and contributors have often been told something like Darwin's correspondent: 'Shall you think me impertinent . . . if I hazard a remark on the style, which is more important than some think . . . It is a golden rule always to use, if possible, a short old Saxon word . . . I go on the plan of thinking every single word which can be omitted without actual loss of sense as a decided gain'. Darwin covered himself by elsewhere describing his own style as 'vile'; and short old Saxon words might have different implications in our permissive days; but his general view is ours also!

As always, it is a pleasure to thank the contributors who have accepted 'impertinent' advice of this kind, and the anonymous referees and members of the Editorial Board who have given it; and who have thus placed their expertise freely at the service of the Society and its members. 1984 is upon us, and we hope it may pass without too much newspeak or too many memory holes.

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