

## EDITORIAL

One of the major problems facing authors of scientific articles has been the lack of uniformity in the style of biomedical journals. It has been estimated that there are 2632 possible reference styles alone(1). Clerical staff and authors waste valuable time in adapting the format of their manuscripts to meet the individual requirements of each journal. The steps that are currently being taken towards achieving uniformity in style are therefore to be welcomed. The editors of 30 American clinical journals met in 1970 and agreed to use the reference style of *Index Medicus*(2). This was followed three years later by a similar agreement among the editors of several biochemical journals(3). In 1978, a group of editors of major clinical journals from the USA, Canada and Britain produced a set of uniform requirements for manuscripts(4), which they have recently revised(5). The editors of several other journals have also agreed to accept manuscripts prepared in accordance with these requirements, and many journals will begin to introduce the system in 1980. The style of articles in this second issue of the **Malaysian** Journal of Pathology conforms to this new system which is described in detail in the section on Information for Authors.

The first issue of The Journal has been extremely well received. The editorial board has now been expanded, but many others continue to serve as reviewers. In the present issue, there is a symposium on leptospirosis as seen in Malaysia, a historical perspective on the Golden Ages of histological techniques, and a review of toxoplasmosis. In addition there are original articles of regional interest.

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Editor

## REFERENCES

1. Williams PC. Units, symbols and abbreviations. London: Royal Society of Medicine, 1972.
2. Anonymous. Style of references standardized. *N Engl J Med* 1970; 282: 49.
3. IUB Commission of Editors of Biochemical Journals. The citation of bibliographic references in biochemical journals. Recommendations (1971). *Biochem J* 1973; 135: 1-3.
4. International Steering Committee of Medical Editors. Uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals. *Br Med J* 1978; 1: 1334-6.
5. International Steering Committee of Medical Editors. Uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals. *Br Med J* 1979; 1: 532-5.