

On the appearance of the first number

The present-day structure of economic world politics compels the nations to seek international co-operation in many spheres. It is gratifying to be able to note that this is being realized everywhere in the field of technology and that earnest attempt are being made to achieve closer collaboration. The fields of shipbuilding and marine engine building may be mentioned as favourable examples in this respect. International congresses, held at appointed intervals, and national magazines distributed all over the world in various languages, take their share in keeping technicians informed of recent technical developments in different countries.

However indispensable it may be in the interests of progress, this form of co-operation remains incomplete as a result of the fact that, on the one hand, contact brought about at congresses is, of course, infrequent and, on the other hand, contact through national periodicals is hampered in many cases by language difficulties. Interesting publications appear in many parts of the world, but generally they are only accessible to those readers acquainted with the language in which they are issued. In the case of many countries therefore, the number of readers is extremely limited. In this way much valuable information is lost a large number of interested persons all over the world.

This applies not only to the very many excellent existing periodicals, but also to Transactions issued by Institutes in many countries. The circle of readers is naturally limited to those acquainted with the language in question.

In publishing the magazine "International Shipbuilding Progress" (I.S.P.), we are aiming at establishing a better international contact between workers in the fields of theoretical shipbuilding, practical shipbuilding, marine engine building and allied subjects in the widest sense of the world. To illustrate further the underlying ideas, though without any claim to completeness, we may mention subjects such as the following: general hydrodynamics; ship calculations; stability; resistance, propulsion and steering; design and construction of ships; strength and vibration of hull; small sea-going craft and vessels for inland navigation; dredgers; rigging, equipment and outfit of ships; building of ships and lay-out of shipyards; marine diesel engines; boilers, steam reciprocating engines and turbines; marine-engine room and boiler-room installations; auxiliary machinery, mechanical and electrical equipment of ships; standardization; classification.

The ideal that we have in view is the international concentration of forces

to further progress in each of these specific fields. This can be achieved by the frequent exchange of the results of research and of practical application, and by discussion in an international sphere.

Through it is our intention to publish theoretical and technical articles of a high standard, we are not blind to the fact that theory should always be held subordinate to practice. Articles of theoretical purport should therefore always be focussed on practical application. Considerable space will be afforded to articles dealing with practical constructions and applications, as will be apparent from the subjects enumerated.

The publisher and the editorial staff wish to state explicitly that they consider collaboration with Technical Institutes in different countries to be of primary importance and at the same time a means of furthering the interests of these Institutes themselves.

In order to guarantee this and to facilitate contact, an "International Editorial Committee" has been set up on which a number of experts in the fields of science and technique from the countries concerned have consented to sit. Their names can be found on page 1 and 2. These editorial committees will strive at co-ordinating the interests of I.S.P. and the Institutes concerned. They will decide whether a contribution should be submitted to the Institutes or to I.S.P. They will encourage qualified members of their staff to write articles and will judge the quality of copy submitted to them. Each country will have its own national editorial address.

The periodical is to appear monthly and each number will be as international in character as possible. Having regard to the fact that many people are acquainted with English, this language has been chosen as the medium. Contributions may, however, for the time being be submitted in German, French or Italian. The publisher will arrange for translation, though articles offered in the English language will of course be preferred.

We have confidence that we shall be able to justify our existence beside the existing periodicals which, in general, may be said to possess a completely different character. In cases where the appearance of an article is deemed advisable in the original language, publication may take place in a national periodical as well as in I.S.P.

It is gratifying to note that collaboration has been promised by a select group of editors from all parts of the world. Besides these editors, there will be a permanent body of contributors to I.S.P. In this connection we have already received spontaneous promises from a number of prominent workers in scientific and technical fields from a number of countries. Further co-operation will of course be heartily welcomed.

We are fully alive to the fact that there may be many and considerable difficulties involved in carrying out our plans. But we are convinced that with your assistance we shall succeed in attaining our ideal, viz. the concentration of the forces available to bring about an efficacious and fruitful exchange of knowledge on each specific subject, and that we shall thus contribute our share to the development of technology.

It is unnecessary to add that constructive criticism and helpful suggestions will always be welcome.

We set forth with confidence in the future and with the enthusiasm which is the foundation of success.

Editors-in-chief and publisher