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Editorial

OUR "COMPETITORS"

It is difficult to say whether it is a good or a bad thing that forestry journals do not depend, as do newspapers and other commercial periodicals, on the quality or liveliness of their contents for the size of their readerships. The circulation of a forestry journal is usually controlled by the number of members in the organisation which publishes it. It is arguable, however, that quality, being often dependent on money and prestige, is directly related to income, and hence to the numbers of members.

I have been looking at a number of recent issues of forestry journals in the English language.

There are two from England. *Forestry*, journal of the Society of Foresters of Great Britain, concentrates on technical and research papers at a high scientific level, while the *Quarterly Journal of Forestry*, published by the Royal Forestry Society of England, Wales and Northern Ireland, is inclined to cater more for those interested in the practical aspects of forest management, and tends to carry articles of more general appeal. *Scottish Forestry*, issued by the Royal Scottish Forestry Society, is somewhat in between the first two, though tending more in the direction of the *Quarterly Journal*.

From the U.S.A. we have *Forest Science* "a quarterly journal of research and technological progress", and *Journal of Forestry*, both published by the Society of American Foresters. These correspond approximately in scope with the two English journals, the former consisting entirely of scientific papers, and the latter containing a mixture of scientific, technical and general material. *The Forestry Chronicle*, from the Canadian Institute of Forestry has recently given itself a face-lift, and now compares favourably with the best in the world for both quality and liveliness. In content it is rather similar to *Journal of Forestry*. The New Zealand Institute of Foresters, Inc., publishes *The New Zealand Journal of Forestry*, of wide-ranging content, and perhaps of particular interest to readers here because of the existence in New Zealand of large areas of exotic conifer plantations.

All of these are of great interest in themselves, but for the forester who wishes to keep up to date on all technical advances, there is nothing to equal *Forestry Abstracts*, published quarterly by the Commonwealth Agriculture Bureaux at £8 per annum. This journal gives the gist of all articles relevant to all aspects of forestry published in all countries of the world. In 1969 it dealt with 6793 articles.