

## REPORT OF THE JOURNAL COMMITTEE

The committee appointed to consider the possibility of publishing a monthly journal, or at least one appearing at regular intervals, is not prepared to submit a formal report; in fact, we had not intended to make any report at this time. At your president's request, however, I will give you some idea of what has been done and what we are doing.

One meeting which was held was unfortunately not attended by all members. The committee is not unanimous in its opinion on the subject. Some are violently opposed, and some are enthusiastically in favor, so I want you to distinctly understand that what I say is not an official report of the committee but what I consider to be the consensus of the opinion of the committee. On the whole, I think the committee is in favor of replacing our Transactions by a monthly journal as soon as we can see our way clear to finance the expense involved.

I believe a journal appearing at regular intervals would be excellent for the Society. We have reached the time when the papers are of sufficient volume to warrant the publication of a journal at monthly intervals. There are many advantages to be gained therefrom. Many communications are of vital interest to the members which do not appear as papers presented to the organization and as long as we are publishing Transactions we can not include them in our Transactions since they are not read and discussed at one of our meetings. I think it highly desirable that we have a publication in which we can publish articles by members, and perhaps non-members, of the Society and things which should appear between conventions. In many cases a man may produce a paper and be desirous of getting prompt publication. It is highly desirable, and I think the majority of the committee feel the same, that we have a journal appearing at regular intervals containing material other than that presented at our own conventions.

The vital thing is can we pay for it and is our income sufficient? We are spending more than 5,000 a year now on publishing our present Transactions.

L. A. JONES, *Chairman*

MR. CRABTREE: The last number cost \$2,000, so that on that basis the figure would be \$8,000.

MR. JONES: That is high, of course, and perhaps \$6,000 would be an average figure for what we are spending annually in publishing our Transactions. We have analyzed the cost of publishing a journal at monthly intervals, taking this data from other similar organizations. One society, quite comparable to this organization and having a membership of 500-600, say the cost of their journal per year is between \$12,000 and \$15,000. We must see our way clear to get that money, and don't want to advise the Society to take on the publication of the journal without being sure we can carry the financial burden. It would involve hiring an editor. The Society cannot ask one of its members to act as the editor of a journal. It is possible that an editor hired to publish the journal might be able to take on other duties, such as assistant to the secretary or act as assistant to the treasurer.

The committee hopes to meet during the convention and at the fall meeting we may have a definite recommendation, but the committee is doing something and attempting to find out how we can publish a journal which to most of us would be very advantageous.

One other phase of the matter I want to mention. A monthly publication appeals very much more to some people than something appearing at irregular intervals. I think it would assist the Membership Committee and give them something more to sell. A monthly publication will appeal very much more to libraries. Many hesitate to subscribe to proceedings of a society appearing at irregular intervals. I believe that our number of library subscriptions would be increased by 300 or 400 if we were offering a monthly periodical, and taking all things into consideration, it is highly desirable.

The committee feels very strongly that if we publish a journal it must be a strictly technical engineering and scientific journal and must not be allowed to take on the character of anything resembling a trade paper. We must keep the standard high, and if we attempt a journal it must be strictly technical.

MR. MCGUIRE: I don't want to take up a moment of the convention, and it would be unwise to discuss this report, but I was put on the committee because I am utterly, completely, and absolutely opposed to the Society having its own publication. This is the one thing on which I pose as an expert in the Society. The expense I know; you might as well charge off \$15,000 at the start.

PRESIDENT PORTER: May I ask your permission, Mr. McGuire: This question of publication is of vital importance to the Society. It needs a great deal more detailed study than it has been given, and there is no possibility of any action being taken before the next convention, when it will come before the body as a whole with further data from the committee, and it is my suggestion that we postpone any further discussion until our next convention, because long discussion here will not affect the result.

MR. MCGUIRE: That is correct. I merely want to register my objection.