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Editorial

Your Editors are now settling into the job and are definitely no longer panicking! This issue is a fairly balanced one and we hope that all of it will be found useful. We would like to thank all contributors, especially those who worked hard to meet our deadline.

However, we still require copy from yourselves, be it factual, humorous, controversial or whatever. The "Notes for Diploma Students" section has been filled admirably this time by Jim Bateman, but we would like to hear from anyone else who can summarise a suitable topic for the next issue. In addition we would welcome any letters from current students who have ideas or problems which we could try to help with by approaching various authors for articles.

We would also like to see an increase in articles which provoke discussion by other members through the newsletter. Everyone must have their own views of certain problems. Should we display birds' eggs or discourage collecting by hiding them? What are the roles of and justifications for various types of provincial museum collections? (a question raised in this edition). Are provincial museum galleries becoming stereotyped? (We think so, do you agree?) These are just a few of the burning issues of the day which could spark off a lively correspondence column.

Finally, the "Featured Institution" is not dead and a few of you will be hearing from us (or will have heard) shortly. This is a very useful section, which keeps the rest of us in touch with developments in your museum, and incidentally, the published article can be used as a very convenient summary to slip to the odd director, trustee, councillor, and enquiring member of the public etc. For example here at Sheffield we use the edition (Vol. 3, No. 2) as a one-off guide to the Museum Natural Science section's functions, day-to-day work, collections and history.

Looking forward very much to hearing from you,

S. P. Garland & D. Whiteley

Steve Derek