

## EDITOR'S NOTE

I am very pleased to have been asked to take on this job. Although my professional work has been primarily theoretical (stellar variability and the structure of stellar atmospheres), I entered astronomy as a young boy in the way that I imagine most of you did -- at the back end of a telescope under a clear sky. And, as I suppose is true of many teachers, I love words. So this is a happy combination for me.

It seems to me that the Journal has done several things for the AAVSO in the past. First, it has been a repository for observations that are fixed in time and that cannot be repeated. Second, the Journal has been a virtually unique forum for the exchange of ideas among amateurs and between amateurs and professionals. Third, the Journal has been the primary channel for communicating the activities of the AAVSO Headquarters, the Council, committees, and members-at-large.

I think it is my task to help the Journal continue in these functions and, through them, to reflect and illuminate the activities of the AAVSO.

I see two principal challenges in accomplishing this task. The first is to encourage you, the members of the AAVSO and interested professionals, to contribute to the Journal. I see many ways in which you can contribute: papers, names of books you have found particularly helpful, descriptions of techniques that might be helpful to others, requests for articles on special topics, etc. Please don't wait to be asked. My second challenge is more difficult to define, so I will "back into" a definition by saying that I think your work is more important than even you can guess. In a word, astronomers need your help, and it is my challenge to help make your efforts pay off.

This journal is, first of all, a journal for "amateur astronomers", lovers of the sky, and I am convinced that any amateur can stand under the stars alongside those who have access to the largest telescopes in the world.

C. A. W.