

EDITORIAL

This double number completes Vol. 23. That there are five numbers rather than the more usual four is due to two factors :

1. The Natural History Sectional Committee has decided that with effect from 1. 1. 71. numbers of the Bulletin published within a calendar year shall form a volume regardless of the number of issues or the total pagination. Volume 24 will thus equate with the year 1971.
2. The extra pagination of this volume comprises the Deignan Memorial Issue, which, although No. 3. within this volume, is in the nature of a Special No.

We hope to deliver, loose within the covers of this issue, the title and contents pages for Volume 23. together with a list of the new scientific names proposed within the volume. Comprehensive indices of the kind published for preceding volumes are being discontinued as a luxury that we cannot afford. It may eventually be possible to publish a ten year index as some other journals now do.

We have continued in this issue with our policy of improving our section on Recent Literature and abstracts are included in this issue in the fields of Entomology and Herpetology: the Editors would like to thank the contributors involved—Khun Nipand Ratanaworabhan and Mr. Paul Soderburg respectively. The Editors hope that the sections on Mammals and Aquatic Sciences will be able to start with the next issue. The Editors would also like to express their satisfaction over the increase in the number of Short Notes contributed. We hope this is the beginning of a trend.

We are aware that a significant proportion of the members of the Siam Society are interested in the content of the Journal rather than in that of the Bulletin and, more seriously, that many of those members who are interested in Natural History find the articles between these covers "too high-brow". We have taken one step to

meet this complaint: a Natural History News Bulletin is now duplicated and sent to members who are interested. If you would like to receive the News Bulletin please advise the Administrative Secretary of the Society and he will put your name on the mailing list. We regret however that this is not available to Ordinary Members resident abroad because of high postage costs. At the same time a Bulletin is to some extent limited in what it prints by the material that it receives: we should greatly welcome more contributions by members resident in Thailand whether Short Notes or full length articles.

T.S. & E.C.D.