

Editorial

The basic policy of this new magazine, published by the Geological Association of Canada, will be to print general-interest articles about the earth sciences in Canada, or about developments in the earth sciences outside Canada, that are likely to be of special interest to Canadians. These articles will be written at a technical level that can be understood not only by specialist research workers but also by non-specialists in other branches of the earth sciences. We hope that many of the articles may also be of interest to high school teachers of geography or earth science, and to the public at large.

It is anticipated that the articles will be mainly of three kinds: (i) papers that summarize and comment on recent progress in some field of the earth sciences, (ii) articles that discuss the interaction of the earth sciences and Canadian society, (iii) short notes that present the results of recent (and generally unpublished) research. Such notes will be acceptable only if they are of general interest and are presented in a style that is intelligible to the non-specialist reader. The first issue contains representatives of both of the first two types, but none of the third. It also contains three other types of articles that we hope will appear regularly: (i) feature pages devoted to geological education and to the history of Canadian geology, (ii) conference reports, and (iii) book reviews, including some longer "essay reviews" on topics of special interest.

One important part of the magazine is not represented in this first issue: letters to the editor. Articles in *Geoscience Canada* will not be refereed as that term is generally understood by the scientific community. We are doing without a formal refereeing system because of the "topical" nature of many of the articles and because we want publication to be as swift as possible. We must rely on a responsive readership and a strong "letters to the editor" section of the magazine to correct errors of fact, where these appear, and to present alternative points of view, where readers believe that articles are too one-sided.

The views expressed in articles published in this magazine are the views of the authors, not the official views of the Geological Association of Canada. We hope that the magazine will provide a forum where some public issues may be intelligently discussed from the point of view of the professional earth scientist. We intend to interpret the scope of the earth sciences broadly, in keeping with the recent policy of the Geological Association of Canada: we welcome articles not only on geology in the narrower interpretation of that term, but also on all related aspects of the solid and liquid earth.

G. V. Middleton