

## Editorial

### 'Judge not according to the appearance'

*The Gospel according to St John, Chapter 7, verse 24*

Readers will not need me to point out the change in appearance of the *British Journal of Nutrition* with this first issue of 1998. A similar transformation will come over our sister journal, *Proceedings of the Nutrition Society*. The change in format (to what is called in publishing circles American A4 or short A4) is the result of long discussion and planning. We hope it will improve the attractiveness and readability of the Journal and, because each issue will be thinner, ease the librarian's burden of providing ever more shelf length (although, of course, the shelves will now have to move apart vertically). And yet, a major theme of our discussions has been that the Journal's attractiveness to the scientist lies not in its outward appearance but in its scientific content: hence the title of my Editorial.

I hope that regular readers will agree that this outward, cosmetic change is but a small part of our continuing process of evolution and that the more important changes are already well under way within the covers. For those who have not noticed the changes occurring over the past two years, I will just list a few: the introduction of review articles, of supplements, and of the Nutrition Discussion Forum for interchange of viewpoints on scientific, ethical and other issues; the clearer separation of papers on human and clinical nutrition, animal nutrition and general nutrition (those mainly on small experimental animals used as models for humans); and the growing internationalization of our Editorial Board. All these features are, we hope, sufficient in themselves

to make the Journal interesting and indeed essential reading for those involved in nutrition research and education.

Why, then, the superficial change in format? I suppose it is just the most obvious way of showing that the Journal is in a process of change and development. Perhaps my title could equally have been Oscar Wilde's neat reversal of St John's words: 'It is only shallow people who do not judge by appearances' (*The Picture of Dorian Gray*, 1891).

I will finish with my now perennial pleas to readers: please let me know what you think of the Journal; please make suggestions for further improvement; and perhaps most importantly, please continue to submit your best papers and your review articles, because it is only through the receipt of good material that the Journal can continue to flourish. To these I will add a new request: that you should consider the Journal's supplement series as a place to publish proceedings of meetings, outcomes of collaborative research projects and other material. In our first year publishing supplement material we have shown that the Journal can achieve exceptionally rapid publication times, coupled, of course, with an ability to reach an international audience.

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