

PREFACE

Subjects and ideas in nutrition are expanding rapidly and it is becoming increasingly difficult and demanding for researchers to keep track of developments outside their own special fields. *Nutrition Research Reviews* is being launched to try to help with this task and to provide an opportunity for invited authorities from the UK and overseas who are active in specific research areas to describe and interpret recent worldwide developments in their fields.

The range of topics covered will be a wide one, but with the constraint that articles will be concerned primarily with underlying scientific principles. The idea that nutrition is, by its very nature, an applied science so that, for nutritionists, practical ends should be paramount is sound enough in one sense. To make practical advances, however, basic science is essential and the study of nutrition whether in man or in any other animal species requires various combinations of scientific disciplines, of which, biochemistry, physiology, endocrinology, microbiology and immunology are perhaps the most important components. *Nutrition Research Reviews* will deal with this range of activities.

No attempt has been made to put the articles into neatly defined categories. Instead they are grouped to fit in as well as possible with their neighbours and are presented as a visible spectrum of interests. Articles emphasizing human and farm animal nutrition can be thought of as being located at the violet and red ends of the spectrum respectively. Papers dealing with practical descriptive studies which are simply directed at answering specific questions relating to particular sets of conditions fall outside this spectrum. Such papers can be very valuable to specialists but are rarely of a kind to advance nutritional understanding in a general sense whether they are in the farm animal infra-red or the human ultra-violet. *Nutritional Research Reviews* is restricted to the visible spectrum, where a concern with basic principles provides a centre ground and a community of interests between workers with widely differing practical aims.