



any general use of airmail for rapid delivery of journal issues. The value of *Current Contents* and the reprint system for scientists in India and their colleagues in other developing countries is made clear by Bannur and Purandare: "*Current Contents* not only helps us to get advance information about articles appearing in journals which we are going to receive after 2-3 months, but in it we also get the information about articles in many more journals which we are not going to receive in our libraries. Moreover, *Current Contents* gives the address of authors which we can make

use [of] for asking for ... reprints free of cost from the authors."

However much the reprint exchange system is abused in the developed countries, as Posen and Rose suggest it may be, we should not forget how important it is to scientists in developing countries. It is, in effect, a form of international aid of which we are generally unmindful. That *Current Contents* plays so significant a role in distribution of this aid to science abroad is, of course, a source of great satisfaction to me.

1. Brown, E.A. How I get the meat out of 700 journals a month. *Medical Economics* 39(6): 128-143 (1962).
2. Posen, S. & Posen, J.S. The geography of reprint requests. *J. Med. Education* 44(8): 648-654 (August 1969).
3. Garfield, E. Is the "free reprint system" free and/or obsolete. *Current Contents* 8(22): 3-4 (June 1, 1965).
4. Rose, M.S. The golden reprint; one man's view of the joys and absurdities of the reprint game. *New Scientist* 43(659): 196 (24 July 1969).
5. Bannur, B.B. & Purandare, G.M. *Current Contents*, an essential economical tool for Indian research libraries. *IASLIC Bulletin* 14(3):102-105 (September 1969).