Water works

T.R. Parsons

Continental Shelf Research.

Editors Michael Collins and Richard W. Sternberg.

Pergamon. 6/yr. £63, \$110.

Chinese Journal of Oceanology and Limnology.

Editor-in-chief C.K. Tseng.

Science Press, Beijing/Springer-Verlag.
2/yr. DM73, \$33.

TWENTY-FIVE years ago, oceanographers learned the terms "oceanic" and "neritic" with their vague implication of a discontinuity between plankton species (and therefore, presumably, the physical-chemical environment of the sea) as one approaches a coastline. Not until the past decade, however, has a general understanding emerged of the distinct oceanographic changes which occur as water flows over the continental shelf. Thus I am in complete agreement with Dr Sternberg's statement that research in this area has "come of age", and it is now helpful to think of many oceanographic processes as being either deep-sea or continental shelf phenomena. This is the rationale behind the appearance of *Continental Shelf Research* (CSR), which complements the longer-established journal *Deep-Sea Research*.

The new journal is interdisciplinary in aims and promises to meet a number of needs for oceanographers working on this specialized and, at times, highly variable environment. The first three volumes have contained a wide variety of papers on water movement, frontal zones, microbiology and geological processes. Although in the editorial policy it is not stated that the journal specifically excludes articles on pollution, the early issues are refreshingly devoted to what I would call the pure science of the oceans — studies on the use of the continental shelf as a dumping ground seem either not to have been submitted to date, or to have been excluded. The journal also contains short sections on instruments and methods, and book reviews. Written comments on papers will be considered for publication up to three months after the appearance of the original paper.

There are no Japanese oceanographers on the editorial advisory board and, in fact, one gains an impression from the choice of the associate editors that much of CSR may be given over to discussion of the margins of the Atlantic Ocean. To fulfil the avowed role of a "platform for international research programmes", the editors should have selected their assistants from a wider constituency. On the other hand, the interdisciplinary nature of the subject is reflected both by the composition of the editorial board and by the articles published so far. Clearly CSR has made a good

beginning. It should go on to become essential reading for oceanographers.

The Chinese-language journal *Oceanologia et Limnologia Sinica* was first published in 1957 and, by 1982, 410 articles on limnology and oceanology in China had appeared. The other journal reviewed here, the *Chinese Journal of Oceanology and Limnology* (CJOL) is not, as might be thought, a full translation of the Chinese journal. Authors who write in *Oceanologia et Limnologia Sinica* may have their work translated for publication in CJOL, but the journal will also accept articles from other Chinese-language publications as well as original papers written in Chinese. This, then, is how a country of one billion inhabitants and many new institutes of limnology and oceanology intends to present a representative sample of its science on these subjects to the English-speaking world.

Out of the first 23 articles published by CJOL, seven were concerned with physics, six with chemistry, two with geological processes and eight with biology; only two of these papers were limnological in nature. Geographically, most of the authors dealt with scientific problems within China, but one paper was concerned with the Tyne estuary in England.

The papers in physical oceanography do represent an up-to-date approach to the subject. The biological contributions, on the other hand, are mainly keyed to systematics and there is as yet little

indication of biological modelling or of more broadly based studies on descriptive ecology. In attempting to carry out their intention of covering a wide spectrum of aquatic science in China, the editors may have gone too far by including at least one paper in the first two numbers which is entirely physiological, while Part II of a paper in physics is promised for another issue — a promise which may be difficult to keep, given the vast amount of Chinese-language science which has to compete for space in the journal.

CHINESE JOURNAL OF OCEANOLOGY AND LIMNOLOGY

中国海洋湖沼学报

In general, however, Professor Tseng and his colleagues have performed a necessary task in exposing Chinese limnology and oceanology to a wider audience. The journal is well produced, and the text gives little indication that it has been translated. But I have one plea. The editors should ensure that the location of each of the studies is identified. In many of the articles it is not; one example is the paper on the tidal equilibrium of Blue Bay — where in the world is Blue Bay? □

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