

EDITORIAL NOTE

THE first issue of this *Journal* marks an important stage in the development of the William Morris Society, for there is now a bridge by which members, who are to be found in many different parts of the world, may communicate with one another. This need has to some extent been met by the Honorary Secretary's news-letters and by the Annual Reports, but the *Journal* will make possible a much freer and fuller exchange of ideas.

Anyone proposing to launch a publication must pause to reflect whether an addition to the mass of material discharged from the printing presses of the world is really justified. Yet it is a curious paradox that despite this proliferation 'the arteries of communication have hardened,' as Mr E. P. Thompson succinctly observes in 'The Segregation of Dissent' (*New University* 6, May 1961). The difficulties of small periodicals are greater in this age of unparalleled technical mastery than in Morris' time, and to an alarming extent in the world of to-day 'the essential conditions of free controversy are absent', to quote Mr Thompson again. Morris' central theme, epitomised by him as 'Reverence for the life of Man upon the Earth', led him to criticize much in the world around him; and much that Morris criticized still exists.

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The future of the *Journal*, which it is hoped will appear half-yearly, depends upon the response not only of members of the Society but of all who are interested in Morris.

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