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THE JOURNAL OF WATER SUPPLY & MANAGEMENT

(The first issue was entitled AQUA)
Oxford and New York, Pergamon Press, 1977

This new journal bills itself as "The International Journal for the rapid publication of research results and their practical applications in the field of water supply and management." Also, judging by the fairly slim evidence provided by the first issue, the articles will be more descriptive than analytical, and the main focus will be on developing countries. All this is laudable, and in principle this new publication could be a good complement to the more analytical *Water Resources Research*.

The first issue has a very informative article by the Intermediate Technology Development Group on water technology in developing countries. Built to some extent around the theme "the best is the enemy of the good," the paper indicates that efforts to implement the highest professional standards of engineering and medicine, which professionals are inclined to do, often result in not accomplishing anything. My limited firsthand knowledge of the village water supply program in Thailand, for example, suggests that this point is not only well taken but immensely important.

The remainder of the first issue consists almost entirely of abstracts of papers presented at the U.N. Water Conference in March 1977. These vary widely in quality from some that are meaty and informative to others that are so sketchy as to be useless.

The objectives of this journal are laudable. Its quality and usefulness remain to be established.

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