

information is frequently used by other scientists who are not likely to have a broad mineralogical background. The question of how much explanatory detail should be incorporated in a paper is therefore a matter of judgement on the part of the author, the editor, and the referees. A uniform standard is unrealistic under these circumstances. Perhaps the best that can be said on the matter is that the author should have a clear conception of the readership to which his paper is directed, and that the wealth, or paucity, of detail provided be consistent with this conception.

Scientific soundness should be an unequivocal precept, but it is not achieved solely by statistical analysis. Certainly all reported observations and measurements should be reproducible, within certain limits, by another observer. But should a statistical analysis be made of all reported mineralogical observations? Unquestionably many types of measurements can be treated statistically, and authors are urged to undertake statistical analyses in these cases. On the other hand, many observations are of a qualitative nature, and are less readily amenable, if at all, to statistical treatment; in such cases it is better to have qualitative assessments than none at all. This is again a matter of judgement for the parties concerned with writing and evaluating the technical paper.

In summary, although no firm rules regulating publication policy for *The Canadian Mineralogist* are proposed, nevertheless some guidelines are suggested, and some indication is given of the problems confronting an editor in attempting to maintain reasonable and consistent standards. It should be added, parenthetically, that this note has been read and approved before publication by the other members of the executive of the Mineralogical Association of Canada, including the editor of *The Canadian Mineralogist*.

Ottawa, December, 1969.

**GEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF CANADA
MINERALOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF CANADA
Annual Meetings 1970**

Geological Association of Canada and the Mineralogical Association of Canada, joint meeting, Winnipeg, Manitoba, August 30–September 2, 1970. Special sessions on geoscience studies in Manitoba, pegmatite minerals and the history of Canadian geologists. Inquiries to R. F. J. Scoates, Manitoba Mines Branch, 900 Norquay Building, Winnipeg.