

Notes

IN DEFERENCE OF THE ANONYMITY OF REFERENCES

In most other fields the arbitrator is not anonymous – justice, sport, criticism of the arts, industrial relations, all maintain highly visible decision-makers. Can science alone remain aloof from requiring personal accountability in its judgements? Referees should not be asked to endure face to face encounters with irate authors. . . . Not all the unpleasant things that are said from behind the cloak of anonymity are said from a desire to do mischief.

Would identification even do what its advocates claim: bring more conscientious and honest reviewing and deter mischief making? The tradition of depersonalisation in the assessment of manuscripts has, we believe, served scientific communication well. There are obviously flaws in the system but radical steps to remove the flaws might remove instead a lot of what is good.

From Editorial 'Nature'

Announcements

Stratigraphic Boundary Problem in India A National Seminar on 'Stratigraphic Boundary Problems in India' shall be held at the University of Jammu, Jammu to coincide with the Annual General Meeting of the Geological Society of India which is being held on April 9, 1988. The Seminar will start on 7th April and culminate on 9th April, 1988. It will be preceded by an excursion to various parts of Kashmir Valley (2nd to 6th April, 1988) to study the important Palaeozoic-Mesozoic boundary sections and followed by an excursion to Jammu hills (10th and 11th April, 1988) to study Cenozoic boundaries. Extended abstracts (300 – 600 words) of the papers or discussions intended for presentation at the Seminar should be sent before the end of January, 1988. For further details contact Professor S. K. Shah, Post-Graduate Department of Geology, University of Jammu, Jammu (Tawi) – 180 001.

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All those interested may apply to Secretary, Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology Society, 33, General Mahadeo Singh Road, Dehradun along with their curriculum vitae for Associate membership.