THE PREPARATION OF MANUSCRIPTS FOR PUBLICATION.

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The preparation of manuscripts for publication in the JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF AGRONOMY or elsewhere deserves more than passing attention. If material is worth presenting at all, it is worth presenting in the best possible form. Carelessness or haste in the preparation of a paper often results in its rejection, even tho the matter it contains is otherwise worthy of publication. A poorly prepared paper, if published, is unsatisfactory to the writer and to the reader, unless the editor devotes much time to its revision.

Clearness and accuracy of expression are of major importance. Naturally, not all men have the same ability to present facts in clear, concise language, but all can strive to obtain clarity of expression. Fine writing should be avoided. A short word is far better than a long one if it conveys the same idea quite as effectively. If six words can be made to do the work of ten, the omission of the useless verbiage is a distinct gain. To quote George Otis Smith: 1 "The . . . scientist has at least two obligations: First, that of making his investigations more and more exact in method and direct in result; second, that of making his product, the written report, such as to meet the needs of not only his professional associates but also the general public."

It is not the intention, however, to make this brief note a discussion of style, but rather one of form. Articles concerned with instruc-