Editorial Comment

AN APPRAISAL

In a recent letter to the membership of the American College of Chest Physicians, this statement appeared: "The Editorial Board will be pleased to have your comments on our Journal, Diseases of the Chest; also any suggestions for improving the Journal. The answers to this request were very complimentary and encouraging.

The following are a few of the hundreds of comments sent in: "An Excellent Journal"; "Good"; "Highly satisfactory"; "Shows progressive improvement"; I feel the editorial staff is to be complimented on getting out such a publication"; "Enjoy reading it very much, and believe it is answering many questions, especially for the general man in medicine"; "I heartily agree with your policy"; "Very interesting"; "I believe it fills a long-delayed, and much felt need for the use of the family physician"; "Believe the Journal is doing a good job, and is truly pioneering in the field that has been woefully neglected in the past."

There were very few suggestions; however, those that were made will be given thoughtful consideration.

C. M. H.

NO REST FOR THE WEARY

Most physicians know so little about the actual conditions in their public tuberculosis sanatoria that they believe there is no work for them to do through organized medicine (their local, County and State Medical Societies). Let us consider the matter of bed rest. Isn't it your opinion, Doctor, that when you send a patient to the Tuberculosis Sanatorium, there is rest, rest, rest? Then read from these actual patients' letters:

"Dear Doctor"

"This is to thank you for your defense of the patients in the State Sanatoria. I spent 18 months at San, and I know everything you say is true. In my opinion the awful part of the situation is that patients entering the sanatorium trust the doctors in charge to take care of them. Those doctors know that rest is the only thing that will make them well and yet at San the rule is that unless one has a temperature of 100 degrees or over you are not allowed in bed.

"As for the patient - employee situation, there is not an able-bodied worker in the place, except perhaps in the boiler room. When I wanted my mattress turned or a heavy chair carried and had the silly idea that that's what the orderly was for, he told me that he was sick and to do it myself. The nurses were all sick, too. Patients make their own beds, scrub bathtubs, polish brass, clean dental bowls and wash bowls, tote blankets up and down stairs when they go out for their "cure" periods, go to the nurses' office for their medicine and wash the medi-