

PREFACE

The first volume of the Bulletin of Aino Gakuin was published in 1987. The journal contained articles mostly on nursing sciences, all written in Japanese. Volume 12, 1998, contained one of the review articles in English for the first time and all the original papers and reports had abstracts in English. The next volume, 13, 1999, contained a review article and an original paper in English. In the following years, the numbers of articles in Japanese and also those in English increased. In volume 15, 2001, the number of the articles in English accounted for almost half of the articles published in the Bulletin of Aino Gakuin.

To meet the need for publication in English, Dr. Akio Koyama, chairman of the Aino Group, and I, the Rector of Aino Gakuin College, decided to publish a new journal "Aino Journal" for the article written in English, in addition to the Bulletin of Aino Gakuin which will be for article in Japanese only. It is a great pleasure to present this new journal.

We are grateful to the authors for their contribution, particularly to the colleagues of Kaiserswerth Diakonie for contributing two articles to this first volume of Aino Journal. In the last years, the students of Aino Gakuin College attended their school for summer studies, and two professors visited us here in Osaka in May, 2002, strengthening our close relationship in the education of nursing students.

The Aino Group consists of a college which is scheduled to become university in a few years, a school for nurses, PTs and OTs, related hospitals and institutions. The professors and teachers at these institutions are all in charge of education and research, and doctors and nurses are engaged in medical activities. All are expected to publish their papers each year. We thus hope that many will contribute to this new journal not only for their own sake but also for the development of Aino Journal and of the Aino Group. Articles from other institutions outside Aino Group are also most welcomed. Our special thanks are due to Professor Judy Noguchi of Mukogawa Women's University who, as the English editor of our journals, has most kindly helped us with the English usage.

We hope our journal can make a significant contribution to the world of nursing and medical sciences.

March, 2003

TOSHIAKI SAKAI, *Editor-in-Chief*