



WOOD SCIENCE NEWSLETTER

Institute of Wood Science

September 1989

From the President

The Institute has 1026 members in the United Kingdom and yet there are probably some 50,000 people whose livelihood involves the handling or use of wood. Where are they and why aren't they members of the Institute?

Many, though far from all, are in the user industries, joinery, furniture, in the professions concerned with building, and the like. We haven't addressed them and few know of the Institute. And yet the Institute has much to offer, a knowledge of a material which is often central to their activities and a forum for communication. They, of course, have much to offer the Institute, by way of broadening its influence and interests.

This year's Annual Conference sought to open a dialogue, with six papers in which timber users identified their needs now and for the future. Without exception all the speakers were excellent; they pulled no punches and their forthright presentations and the debates which followed clearly demonstrated the need for closer association between those who use and those who supply wood and wood products. It is a process which the Institute must foster but it needs the cooperation of all, members and Branches as well as the committees of the Institute, to seek to bridge the divide. There are enormous benefits to be obtained by all, from communication with and a clearer understanding of the technical needs of others, and with the Institute as a catalyst in the process it, too, can benefit with a more knowledgeable, influential and hopefully larger membership.

Dr. John Brazier FIWSc (President)

IWSc CONFERENCE 1989

Once again the IWSc Conference held in April at The Moat House Hotel, Stratford-upon-Avon was a great success. The theme this year was "The needs of the user" and 85 delegates attended. Excellent papers were presented by speakers, all expert in their field and covered UK sawmilling, timber used in construction, joinery and furniture, surface finishing and last but not least education in the trade.

To supplement the education paper, colleges providing education facilities in timber technology were invited to mount displays in the foyer to the lecture theatre. This proved to be a popular meeting place and discussion venue during the intervals of the Conference and was well worth the effort involved. In addition to the instructive and discussion purpose of the Conference it is also a social occasion and 36 wives and partners attended the delegates. A tour of "The alternative Stratford" to lesser known places of historical places was arranged for the Friday afternoon and this was well supported.

The Conference finished officially at lunchtime on Saturday, but being in Stratford some of us stayed over in order to see Hamlet that night at the Memorial Theatre thus providing a memorable finish to an excellent weekend.

You may have noticed that the timing of the Conference was moved this year from Saturday/Sunday am to Friday/Saturday am. It would be interesting to hear from you (particularly those who do not attend the Conference at the present time) if you would do so if future Conferences were held solely during working hours, during weekends only or a mixture of both as at present. Any suggestions of future themes or papers would also be of great interest to the organisers. Please send your views to the IWSc office - it is **your** Conference.

Jean Taylor FIWSc

CORPORATE MEMBERS

For many years we have been fortunate in receiving very generous financial support from some of the leading UK timber companies and wood preservative companies. These companies, namely Akzo Coatings plc, Cuprinol Ltd., Fosroc Ltd., Hicksons Timber Products Ltd., James Latham plc, Meyer International plc and Rentokil Ltd., have happily agreed to continue with their support and have been joined with the introduction of Corporate Membership by the following: John Boddy Timber Ltd., James Donaldson & Sons Ltd., Guildway Ltd., Hunter Timber Ltd., Harcros Timber & Building Supplies Ltd., MBM Forest Products Ltd., Sarek Joinery Ltd., W.S. Shuttleworth Timber Ltd., Timbmet Ltd., Timber Trade Federation, Travis Perkins plc, Watford Timber Co. Ltd. and Henry Venables Ltd.

We are very proud and indeed fortunate to have such distinguished bodies as Corporate Members of the Institute and are very grateful to them for their support.

M.W. Holloway AIWSc (Director)

OPEN LEARNING — PRODUCT KNOWLEDGE TIMBER

This basic timber technology course is now widely available. Success in the homework and in the examination will lead to a Preliminary Certificate in Timber Technology endorsed by the IWSc and TRADA. This is the recognised entry requirement to the IWSc 2-year course which can result in Certificate or Associate membership depending on the level of achievement.

Colleges currently promoting the Open Learning Package are:

Bucks College of Higher Education, High Wycombe.

City College, Liverpool.

Central Manchester College.

Crawley College of Technology.

Glasgow College of Building & Printing.

Gloucester College of Arts & Technology.

Leeds College of Building.

London College of Furniture.

Mid-Warwickshire College of Further Education.

Newtonabbey Technical College, Co. Antrim.



IWSc Conference 1989 — Speakers and Chairmen

Left to Right T.A. Bruce Jones (Sawmilling), R. Venables (Chairman & Vice-President IWSc), W.D. Vincent (Education), G. Hutchison (Construction) R. Leggetter (Finishing), D.C. Chennery (Joinery), A.J. Sparkes (Furniture), Dr J.D. Brazier (Chairman & President IWSc).

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

UNIVERSITY OF COLLEGE OF NORTH WALES, BANGOR

Degree courses in Wood Science are taught in the school of Agricultural and Forest Sciences. The College offers:

A single Honours BSc degree in Wood Science (3 years)

A joint Honours BSc degree in Wood Science with Chemistry (3 years)

A Diploma/MSc degree course in Forest Industries Technology (1 year)

The single Honours course covers:

Year 1 Structure of wood; biodegradation and protection; the influence of forestry practices on wood properties and processing of solid wood.

Year 2 Material Science of wood plus one of the following:

Wood based composite manufacture; timber structures; economics of forest based industries; international trade in wood goods or research methodology.

Year 3 Wood Science

In addition students undertake an individual investigation in year 3 on which they must produce a report. There are excursions to forest industries, and students are required to attend study tours in industry during the vacations.

The Masters degree course covers:

Term 1 Forest resource and material science of wood.

Term 2 Either wood science at Bangor or paper technology at UMIST. At Bangor, candidates take modules selected so as to build up their individual technology course. The modules are: Biodegradation and preservation

Chemical technology

Commercial timbers, grading and specification

Marketing and business economics

Structural use of timber

Timber drying

Wood based composites

Furniture production technology

Saw technology and saw milling

Wood machining

The last three of these modules are offered in collaboration with Buckinghamshire College.

At UMIST candidates take the following core courses:

Pulp technology; stock preparation technology; technology of paper formation; secondary fibre utilisation; paper physics; paper analysis; and can choose from the following options:

Coating; water and air pollution or process engineering.

Term 3 A dissertation.

Prof. E.J. Gibson FIWSc.

LIVERPOOL MUSEUM TIMBER COLLECTION

Liverpool and District Branch have been able to give assistance to Liverpool Museum in the publication of a provisional list of wood samples in its collections. The collections contain over 3,000 specimens. Because of our co-operation the Branch can offer copies of the catalogue to members of our Institute at the special price of £6 plus postage instead of the normal price of £6.99.

Anyone interested should contact the Hon. Secretary, D.G. Jones, CMIWSc, 146 Prescott Road, St. Helens, Merseyside, WA10 3TX — Tel: (0744) 25218

UK TIMBER ENGINEERING GROUP

The UK Timber Engineering Group is an independent group of timber engineering enthusiasts drawn from academia, research associations, the trade and industry, with its secretariat based at TRADA. Its chief aims are to identify research needs from industry into structural timber utilisation, to encourage such research ensuring good communication between organisations, and to disseminate the results of that research back to industry. In the past the group has organised successful seminars and symposia on Structural Timber Joints, Trussed Rafters and Eurocode 5, has produced guidance information on on-site glueing and bibliography on structural timber joints.

Currently the group is planning a seminar for Spring 1990 on timber in refurbishment, and is drafting a paper intended for publication in the Structural Engineer on the almost complete absence of timber engineering education in our undergraduate courses for builders, civil engineers and architects, including proposals for remedying this situation. A survey carried out by the Group revealed that, on average, less than 1% of student contact time on Civil Engineering degrees is devoted to timber.

The Group maintains regular contact with some 173 corresponding members in 36 countries, but would be grateful to receive additional comments and suggestions from readers of this Newsletter, either on content of the proposed seminar (particularly of interesting case studies) or of the paper on timber engineering education. Contact with the Group can be made through the Chairman: Dr. L.R.J. Whale, FIWSc, at Gang-Nail Systems Ltd, Christy Estate, Ivy Road, Aldershot, Hants. GU12 4XG.

JOURNAL OF FOREST ENGINEERING

A new journal encompassing the field of Forestry, Engineering and Management has been set up. The editorial policy is to solicit, referee and publish papers, reviews and abstracts considered appropriate to this discipline, with the intent of maintaining the highest levels of scholarship.

An editorial board has been established and initially it is proposed to publish on a bi-annual basis, and if interest in, demand for the journal warrants, this will be increased to quarterly. The first issue was published this summer and unfortunately it contained no European contributions. The editor would greatly appreciate papers from European countries and priority will be given where possible.

Comments and suggestions, and drafts for publication, will be welcomed by the Interim Editor-in-Chief, Jeremy Rickards, University of New Brunswick, Canada, E3B 5A3.

FIDOR CONFERENCE 1989 — Theme QUALITY

The Trade Association for the Fibreboard Industry will be holding its 3rd International Conference in York on October 5th to 7th.

Speakers include Chris Barton, Sales and Marketing Director of Guildway Homes, Ward Williams, Editor of Wood Based Panels International and Brian Keyworth, Architect and Consultant to FIDOR. The speakers will address the theme from all points of view.

All members of FIDOR and major users of fibreboard are welcome to attend. Contact FIDOR at 1 Hanworth Road, Feltham, Middx TW3 5AF — Tel: 01-751 6107.

IWSc/BWPA TIMBER INFESTATION SURVEYORS CERTIFICATE

The Timber Infestation Surveyors examination is run by the IWSc at the request of the British Wood Preserving Association. The aim of the examination is to ensure that all those who survey buildings for infestation and who recommend preservative treatment are competent to do so.

The examination is open to all applicants who have had at least 18 months experience of surveying buildings for insect damage and fungal decay. Each candidate must supply three survey reports and the examination consists of a written paper (three hours) followed by a Viva-Voce which entails recognition of samples of infested wood and a general discussion on survey and/or treatment techniques.

Successful candidates are awarded a certificate. This qualification is increasing in importance since is the aim of the BWPA that eventually all surveyors in their member firms will be qualified. In addition the Health and Safety Executive wishes to ensure that all people who recommend preservative treatment in buildings should demonstrate that the treatment is necessary and whether alternative methods can be used. They must also ensure that any preservative treatment they recommend will not damage the environment by causing pollution or by harming people, animals etc. Treatment must be limited to that which is essential. Thus the need for education and training in the proper identification of damage, an understanding of its significance and of any risks that may be involved is now extended to include all those people who recommend preservative treatment in buildings, such as Building Society surveyors, local authorities, architects etc.

Because of the Viva-Voce element of the examination, the number of candidates is currently limited to less than 30 per session. There are 3 or 4 examinations a year and they are now held at the Building Research Establishment, Watford. In the last four examinations 96 candidates were entered of which 70 passed (9 with credit) and 26 failed.

Courses for Timber Infestation Surveyors are available at the Buckinghamshire College of Higher Education, High Wycombe and at Oldham College, Department of Construction and General Engineering. For "in house" training, names of independent consultants can be obtained from the British Wood Preserving Association, 6 The Office Village, 4 Romford Road, Stratford, London E15 4EA (01-519 2588).

Jean Taylor FIWSc

CITY COLLEGE LIVERPOOL

City College, Liverpool would like to take this opportunity of thanking all Timber Trade employers, especially those in the Merseyside area for supporting the College Timber Trade Courses throughout the last academic year. We feel that the Education/Training given by Colleges is of the highest standard, as reflected in the examination results gained by students, and we would like to ask you to continue to support your local college, especially in regard to those trainees employed in the area of importation etc.

Information on Timber Trade Courses at City College, Liverpool can be obtained from: Ken Stout AIWSc, Clarence Street Site, Liverpool. L3 5TP.

BRANCH LINES

HIGH WYCOMBE BRANCH

The success of the High Wycombe Branch of the Institute owes a great debt to the location of the furniture industry in this area since well before the turn of the century. Thus the Buckinghamshire College offers a wide range of courses in furniture design and production and timber technology. Consider also that both TRADA and until recently the BRE's Timber Division fall within a 10 mile radius of Wycombe's Town Hall. The Oxford Forestry Institute is also within our catchment area.

High Wycombe membership is probably the most widely varied amongst the Institute Branches. It includes Directors and Presidents of the IWSc, Directors of TRADA, teachers, scientists and professionals from the college and local research organisations. Local furniture and wood preservation industries are also represented. Despite this wide variety of membership it still takes a special event to entice our members out of the woodwork in order to present a speaker with a "full house".

Along with our Branch Committee we have a core of stalwarts, also the Bucks. College students who are as discerning as any "old stagers" can be relied upon to attend regularly apart from holiday and exam periods.

The events, taken from a broad spectrum, are held in the TRADA lecture theatre and we are able to make good use of the TRADA bar afterwards. A different member of the Committee is "volunteered" to organise a free finger buffet after each event.

We look forward to the future with much enthusiasm. Continuing developments in domestic industries of hardwood supplying countries, the European single market, the environmental debate and astute commercial practices, compounded by greater public and professional awareness, are as exciting as they are complex for the timber trade. We aim to face these challenging issues by providing knowledgeable speakers to introduce and to discuss them with our membership.

Richard White, AIWSc Branch Chairman.

SCOTLAND BRANCH

A General Meeting was called in May '89 after a two year dormant period. A new management committee has been elected, with Professor Bernard King as Branch Chairman.

The meeting was followed by a talk on the aims of the Institute of Wood Science by the President, John Brazier. Those attending the meeting found this most informative and produced a lively discussion afterwards.

A Branch meeting was held in June when an up to date view of the British Columbian Timber Industry was given. A programme of four Branch meetings is planned for Autumn 1989 and Spring 1990, and the committee hope that the Membership will give every possible support.

Eric Wyllie (Secretary)

A WORCESTER WALK

The historic city of Worcester, with overnight stay at the completely refurbished 3-crown classified Star Hotel, was the venue for the Midland Branch IWSc social weekend in June. The object was to admire and explore the wealth of 14-16th century timber frame buildings in this 'faithfull' city, many of them associated with the Civil War (1642-51).

Starting in the Cornmarket on the ancient city walls, Holthams Garden Shop and an adjoining restaurant do business in King Charles House where Charles II set up court and escaped after his army was defeated by Cromwell's forces at the Battle of Worcester 1651. From there a walk to 16th century Nash House, and after admiring the symmetry of the prestigious front elevation with the upper three stories jettied over the street, we entered the post and truss structured building to be addressed by Mr Fred Charles, a well known local architect specialising in timber buildings. A lively debate ensued, for Mr Charles' comments were forthright and his ideas on wood preservation were to say the least contentious, but the exchanges were enjoyed by all and not least by the speaker!

On to the Greyfriars, 15th century, specially opened for us and then, of the same period, the beautiful Tudor House Museum. Lunch was followed by a special IWSc tour of the Commandery where Charles' commander, the Duke of Hamilton, made his headquarters. The story of the Battle of Worcester unfolded easily with the interest in the Great Hall with its notable hammer beam roof and fine oriel window which had witnessed it all; there was a distinct feeling of symbiosis.

The rest of the day was free until an informal dinner. At Sunday breakfast the main topic of conversation was where to go next year. Any suggestions?

Alan Edge FIWSc

TIMBER ENGINEERING GROUP

The Timber Engineering Group has been meeting at the Imperial College in London for many years. Numerous, often fascinating lectures on timber engineering topics, have been attended mainly by a small loyal band of enthusiasts. In the recent past, the closure of the Timber Technology M.Sc course at the Imperial College has deprived the group of an important source of "new blood", and the recent or imminent retirement of certain key figures in UK timber engineering will affect attendance still further in the future. Given this scenario, and with a view to broadening attendances at group talks, it is hoped in future to run joint IWSc/IstructE lectures on timber engineering topics at IstructE Headquarters. This could form part of the regular programme of meetings held by IstructE, and should reach new hitherto untapped audiences. Topics for a rolling programme of talks are being sought for September 1990. Comments on the above and suggested topics would be welcomed by the convenor, **Dr. L.R.J. Whale FIWSc** at Gang-Nail Systems Ltd., Christy Estate, Ivy Road, Aldershot, Hants. GU12 4XG.

THE TYNE-TEES BRANCH

The Branch was re-started about 12 years ago, when I became Northern Regional Officer for TRADA. I had been quite used to attending meetings of the High Wycombe Branch, whilst at TRADA Headquarters, and I was surprised and a little disappointed to find that the Tyne-Tees Branch was moribund. Worse than that: the Capitation grant was being hijacked and paid to the Yorkshire Branch, as the nearest available receipt. We soon put a stop to that....

The Tyne-Tees Branch as it is presently constituted, has between 40 and 50 members, and I am now its Vice-Chairman, having been Secretary when we got it going again. This was in order to give it a good base from which to operate. In fact for the 5 years between my being Branch Secretary and Vice-Chairman, I was still Speaker Secretary being able to use my many contacts via TRADA to enquire some first-class speakers into visiting us.

Originally we met at the Newcastle College of Art and Technology, which used to run the old 'night school' wood science course. But we now meet at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, thanks to our present secretary Dr. John Bull, who is a senior lecturer in the Department of Engineering. (He has done much to carry on the good work of Dennis Cooper, by teaching Timber Engineering to his undergraduates and instilling in them not only an understanding of BS 5268:Parts 2 and 3, but also a desire to design in timber).

As is probably the case with many Branches, our meetings are attended by a 'hard core' of staunch and enthusiastic supporters (the committee and one or two others usually), but now and again a miracle occurs and the room is filled. This actually happened last season on the other occasion I couldn't attend. The speaker, on joinery timbers was overwhelmed with 60 in the audience! (I still think the others are pulling my leg!)

Our programmes continue to be varied and interesting - never 'stuffy' or over-scientific. We try and cater for all the perceived interests of our members, and of course any friends or colleagues they may wish to bring along.

We have recently taken the step of publishing our own Branch Meeting Card and have circulated all the companies in our area with a letter and a copy of the printed programme. We are determined to keep our Branch going and to continue to provide a friendly and worthwhile forum for timber topics in the Tyne-Tees area.

James C. Coulson AIWSc. FFB.

AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

Congratulations to Prof. Ian Ferguson who has taken over as Chairman of the Australian Branch from Bill Keating. Prof. Ferguson is Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry in Melbourne and is presently engaged in a wide-ranging review of research in commercial forestry and wood processing in New Zealand.

Bill Keating, whom he succeeds, has now retired from C.S.I.R.O. but continues to serve Wood Science as the Secretary/Project Officer of the J.W. Gottstein Memorial Trust.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Congratulations to Terrence Mallinson on his election to office as President of the Timber Trade Federation for the next two years. He has succeeded Richard Carr the retiring President. Terrence Mallinson is a Past President of the Institute of Wood Science and Richard Carr is a member of our Council, they are both valued members of the Institute.

A special welcome to a new Branch which is being instituted in Dublin. The secretariat will be based at EOLAS, the Irish Science and Technology Agency, contact Dr. J.A. Everts. AIWSc.

SIDE LINES

BRAZILIAN RAIN FOREST RESOURCE — MIKE CROGGAN'S PROJECT

Many of you may remember Mike Croggan's appeal for research funding from the Timber Trades Journal earlier this year. Mike is undertaking a PHD at the Oxford Forestry Institute, researching how the commercialisation of the Brazilian rainforest resource can be more closely dovetailed to end use in order to minimise the impact of the timber industry's needs on a vital world resource.

Not only is this project a daunting prospect in its academic scope, but for Mike it is also a major achievement to have made so much progress to date as Mike suffers from M.N.D. — Motor Neurone Disease. As Mike says however "I do not want charity or sympathy, my appeal fund was launched in order to raise research funding".

The programme of research is going well — extensive efforts have already been made in compiling a data base of Brazilian species (so far 800 and still growing) and information on their properties and other information essential for matching them to appropriate end uses.

The task of managing such a complex data base has now been made a lot easier with the acquisition of an I.B.M. (PS2) computer, purchased with money raised by the Mike Croggan Appeal Fund. Future research will be targeted at assessing the suitability of the individual species for end use. Mike hopes that assistance will be forthcoming from producers in Brazil, as well as UK importers of hardwoods, in helping to target markets, on a trial basis, some of the more promising species for end use trials.

It is not charity Mike requires, but commitment from the industry, research funding and practical assistance. Mike would also like to thank all those members of the Institute of Wood Science who gave most generously to the Mike Croggan Appeal Fund. If anyone wishes to help Mike's research programme by donations, practical help with test marketing or information please contact: Mike Croggan, Oxford Forestry Institute, Dept. Plant Sciences, South Parks Road, Oxford. OX1 — Tel: (0865) 275000

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Sept. 12-14 **BMEX Building Materials Exhibition** — Earls Court.
 17-19 **DIY Trade Exhibition** — Earls Court.
 26 **Institute of Wood Science AGM** TTF Oxendon Street.
 Oct. 4 **Australia Branch IWSc AGM** — CSIRO Victoria.
 5-7 **FIDOR Annual Conference** — Crest Hotel York.
 19-20 **London Woodworker Show** — Earls Court.
 22-25 **Home Interior Show** — Olympia.
 29-30 **Timber Trade Federation Conference** — NEC Birmingham.
 Dec. **Brussels International Woodworking Machinery Exhibition**.
 1990
 March 29- **EXPOBOIS International Exhibition of Woodworking Manufacturers and Timber Industries** — France.
 May 11-12 **IWSc Conference** — Moat House Hotel, Stratford upon Avon.

- Sept. 9-11 **Windows, Doors and Conservatories** — Alexandra Palace.
 Dec. 5-7 **Restorex '90 Restoration and Conversion of Old Buildings** London.

THE INSTITUTE OF WOOD SCIENCE WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW APPLICANTS WHO HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED IN THE GRADES AS FOLLOWS

Fellowship — D.F.G. Rodwell, Princes Risborough.

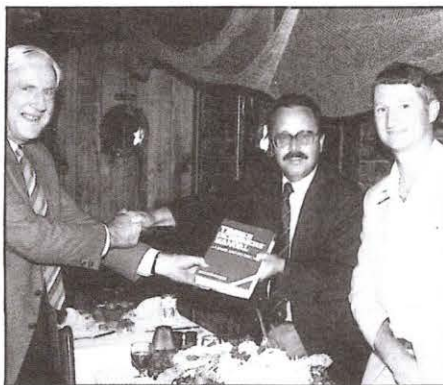
Associateship — A.R. Abbott, Worminghall; D.J. Bremner, High Wycombe; R.J. Cooper, Anglesey; R.I. Gibbs, Coniston; J.R.N. Harrison, Taunton; D. Kemp, Oxford; J.J. Kirwan, Virginia Water; G. McGill, Glasgow; E.T. Mills, Watford; A.D. Mountford, Henley-on-Thames; G.E. Neil, Thorpe Bay; A.G.S. Norrie, Salisbury; Ms F.C. Moss, Caversham; B.D. Passmore, High Wycombe; G.B. Paterson, Grenada, West Indies; T.A. Pennington, London; D.J. Seabright, Pershore; D.T. Yeomans, GT. Yarmouth.

Certificated Membership — N.F. More, Shotley Gate.

Membership — R.D. Adams, Ripon; Dr P.J. Fitzsimons, Loughborough; M.R. Neil, Wargrave.

THE FOLLOWING HAVE BEEN UPGRADED

To Fellowship — Dr. L.R.J. Whale, Hailsham.
 To Associateship — Dr. V. Enjily, Oxford; D.W. Oliver, Marlborough; I.A. Utuk, Uyo, Nigeria.
 We have also enrolled 49 Student Members.



While on a private trip to visit relatives in Australia, Keith Purcell, Vice President IWSc paid a two day visit to our Australian Branch. Keith who has been a committee member of the Liverpool Branch for 16 years presented our Australian friends with a copy of "Timber Designers Manual" by Jack Baird and Carl Ozleton (A Liverpool member). It was received by Bill Keating, and Jim Krefield, cornerstones of the Australian Branch.

Keith also met up with other members of the local committee at a Branch seminar including Joe Mack, editor of Wood Science Digest.

Recently the IWSc Council decided to support regular visits to Australia. It is hoped that this trip will have paved the way for future official visits and prove once again the value of personal communication.

THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Did you in fact realise that there is an IWSc Membership Committee? Probably not. We are a small, dedicated group who try to keep a low profile. After all, we are unlikely to get many commendations from the people whose applications we consider — those whose applications are successful only get what they deserve or have earned, those whose applications are declined often feel aggrieved!

The main task with which we are charged by Council is to consider the applications received and recommend to the next meeting of the Council the grade of membership which we believe is appropriate. Sometimes this is straightforward as in the case of those who have successfully completed Institute or appropriate college courses. Others are more difficult — such as those offering qualifications obtained abroad where the equivalence to our automatically accepted criteria may be in doubt. Over the years we have built up a sort of mental data base to cope with this type of problem. Continuity of committee membership is obviously of importance here and some of our members are of long standing, for instance Bernard Eades and Geoffrey Booth to name two of our most durable number. Such continuity and depth of experience is also essential if we are to maintain uniform standards in appointing members to those grades where the requirements call for subjective judgements.

More recently the Membership Committee has put forward the view that the time is right to encourage an active debate on two vital membership issues. The first of these, which has already been debated by Council and the recommendations put to it started to be implemented, concerns the need for and ways of achieving an increase in 'market penetration' of Institute membership. This involves both getting new membership and retaining our existing members. The other issue involves consideration of how the Institute can encourage greater awareness, greater recognition and increased membership from those people in the timber and wood-using industries from whom the traditional examination route to membership is no longer appropriate. The factors to be considered are complex and an early answer is unlikely to be found. There is, however, a feeling, strongly held by some people, that this issue must be resolved if the Institute is to move forward purposefully into the next decade. The Membership Committee would welcome your (written) views on this and any other relevant subjects.

Dr. G.S. Hall FIWSc

TAIL END

Parents I suppose have influenced our lives far more than we have ever realised, and certainly mine were no exception. My father who was a meticulous man always impressed on me and my brother "if a job was worth doing it was worth doing well". This was good news for me for being more than a little lazy a quick look at any project convinced me that I could not do it well and it was therefore not worth doing.

All this came to a horrible end in my early teens when I read Shaw. GBS says "if a job's worth doing its worth doing badly". Alas my lazy life was ruined.

I know to produce a Newsletter it is worth doing — please take it with all its warts and pimples and let us have your views on how to put it right — if only to allow my dear father to rest in peace.

M.H.