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EDITORIAL

At highly irregular (some might say random) intervals in the past, editors of the Journal of Hydrology (New Zealand) have seen fit to indulge in, or invite, homilies to their readers on some topics of hydrological significance. The frequency of these events seems to have declined in recent years, and this may be no bad thing: I, for one, hardly ever read them except at five minutes to five. The present Editorial has two objectives, one major and one incidental; first, to outline the role of the Journal as it appears to me as a comparative newcomer to intimate involvement with it; and, secondly to restore a measure of cyclicity to the time-series of Editorial events.

The Journal enters its twenty-second year of publication with this issue. During that time it has evolved from an almost purely local record of hydrological work and events to a truly international periodical (albeit with a distinctive New Zealand flavour) carrying papers of wide and fundamental interest. At first sight the existence of a New Zealand hydrological periodical on the international scene may seem unjustifiable—why not a Journal of Hydrology (Isle of Wight), one might ask? The answer lies in the unusual intensity of hydrological processes in New Zealand, and in the varied nature and geology of the landforms affected; in simple terms, lots of very interesting things happen in, and as a consequence of, New Zealand hydrology, which scientists all over the world should know about. This is underlined by the large number of overseas hydrologists who visit New Zealand, by the significant rate at which New Zealand scientists publish local data in prestigious overseas periodicals and by the overseas subscribers to the Journal of Hydrology (New Zealand) (which is received by, for example, 40 institutions in the USA, institutions in all European countries and many others world-wide, and by individuals from Sweden to the Phillipines). It is my hope that reiteration of the international status of this Journal will encourage local scientists to submit their best work to it, to the benefit of the Journal's reputation and the reputation of New Zealand hydrology in general.

The other point I wish to make is rather less well-defined, but will, hopefully, become more so with the passage of time. Not so many years ago, at a New Zealand Hydrological Society Annual Dinner, a respected speaker stated that "The hydrologist is the hand-maiden of the engineer". Sexist undertones apart, this sentiment seemed to find general approval. The clear implication was that, in water resource development, the engineer decided what was to be done and the hydrologist provided the data

for design, I would like to think that this situation is changing, and will change still more in the future. In an age of increasing environmental awareness, the hydrologist is just as likely to act as the *conscience* of the engineer, insofar as the hydrologist will predict the repercussions of proposed engineering works in short- and long-term time scales, and will thus provide data which allow the public, via the Government, to decide whether or not the works should proceed. One hopes, of course, that this would take place at the preliminary planning stage of a proposed project.

In all the foregoing, one should of course interpret the term 'hydrologist' as encompassing many disciplines and specialities. Insofar as engineers, geomorphologists, ecologists, geographers and social scientists are concerned with the science of water, its movement and its effects, they are contributing to the science of hydrology. Such works are therefore welcome as contributions to this Journal, which continues to act as a record of the proceedings of its parent body, the New Zealand Hydrological Society.