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## EDITORIAL

### "PILGRIM HYDROLOGY"

In bygone days Confucius remarked on the joys of the citizen who remained hopefully travelling.

The New Zealand Hydrological Society is even now in that happy position with a certain promise of journeyings of infinite variety in the years to come.

It is time then to explore: to study the roads and the byways; consult with the guides; examine the chariots and the horses; and eventually erect signposts.

The exploration report says that there is a certainty of rapid expansion. The explorers know this from the example of every progressive country; it is confirmed by a knowledge of the special land and water problems of New Zealand.

The roads are the roads of basic hydrology: the regional data; the water balance; the full hydrological cycle; and the investigations where requirements of data are known with certainty. The byways consist of the infinite network of paths which research quickly finds; some to develop into trunk routes, many to end in a maze.

The hopeful travellers must get to know their roads, create new roads, and extend existing roads. And until main road traffic flows smoothly and efficiently the byways will have faint attraction and may help little towards the ultimate goal.

The guides are the requirers and users of information; each in his area influences the journey well or ill according to his knowledge and study.

The chariots and the horses will deserve much thought since we must be mindful of sending boys on men's errands. Enough and no more are wanted of material facilities.

The "Pilgrim" Society born in the minds of a scant company of travellers now wants its signposts clearly marked and looks to the guides and explorers within and without its ranks for this vital part of the task.

The purpose of this fanciful allegory is to bring out the significance of new steps taken by the Society's executive to open the membership which originally, with justification, was restricted largely to those few employed full-time in hydrological work.

Step 1, changing the qualifications for membership, has been taken. Step 2, the achievement of full consultation and sharing of leadership, has not been reached. This is a matter of timing rather than of intent. Step 2 can only be taken by informal methods pending a suitable opportunity for the first general meeting of members.

Without doubt the future strength of the Society will depend on the successful achievement of Step 2 and in this all members as either travellers, explorers, or guides have significant but rather different contributions to make.

Formal signposting is perhaps the prerogative of working organisations exercising national functions and the relation of the Society to these organisations, and vice versa, must be properly appreciated. Essentially, working organisations must do their business formally and must carry the weight of responsibility for the services this country needs. The Society as a free and informal meeting ground can be the best of aids in providing a forum to develop general communication and broad understanding of the roads to be travelled. It may even be able to erect some signposts.

The first general meeting is likely to take place next year and, in a Society with such diverse interests, personal thought should turn to matters where communication and understanding may be endangered by a lack of appreciation of other viewpoints. Both pure and applied scientists will need to adjust attitudes. Those who can influence responsible organisations must see that signposting is as modern as knowledge will allow. Full-time hydrologists may need to suppress some specialized interests because common themes must prevail. And water technologists must come to realize that quality and economy of work are dependent upon the quality of scientific knowledge available.

However, first among the guests should be Patience and Confucius.

A.P.C.