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EDITORIAL

Specialist Groups

Some years ago the idea was mooted that specialist groups should be established within the N.Z. Hydrological Society. It was understood that such groups would meet separately to generally improve co-operation within their speciality, and in so doing promote the science of hydrology, which is the stated aim of the Society.

Comments have been received from time to time from members, and these comments have been sufficiently encouraging for the idea to persist.

The Committee of the N.Z. Hydrological Society is aware of the activities of the International Association of Scientific Hydrology (IASH) which, on an international scale, also operates specialist groups. One of these, a relatively recent group entitled the Committee on Mathematical Models in Hydrology, appears to be extraordinarily successful. It has met many times, and has arranged some outstanding international symposia.

The Society Committee has noted the increasing interest in the development of mathematical models in hydrology in New Zealand, and has decided at its last meeting to circularize interested workers, asking whether they would consider it a worthwhile activity to establish a specialist group on the subject within the N.Z. Hydrological Society.

The possibility of other groups was considered, and some fields of interest could readily be pinpointed, but it was decided to await the outcome of the enquiry on mathematical models before taking any further action.

It is believed that the Society is strong enough at present, both in membership and financially, to launch such a venture. Its success will, of course, depend on the interest of members, and the Secretary would welcome any comments on the proposal.