

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Hydrology is not always considered a science. All recognized sciences however had their roots in practical problems and gradually developed an "intellectual basis". Practical hydrological problems are extremely severe in New Zealand and therefore the development of the "science" has somehow lagged behind; in many cases we are still working with empirical solutions while the theory and subsequent understanding and prediction is in its infancy.

Understanding and training in scientific hydrology are essential requirements for the development of the intellectual basis and for the maximum application of overseas findings. A massive amount of scientific hydrology is carried out overseas, especially in the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. but little of this work is being used in New Zealand today or being investigated with an aim to adaptation for New Zealand conditions.

The development of the intellectual basis is the aim of the New Zealand Hydrological Society. The methods the Society intends to follow will be restricted, in the beginning, to the publication of a Journal which is available for the promulgation of knowledge on hydrology in its widest conception. This, the first Journal, will give you a reasonable, albeit meagre, sample of what may be expected in the future.

In this issue are published most of the addresses presented at the Hydrology Symposium, Annual Meteorological Conference 1961. Since no other suitable channels are available for the publication of such information, the Society will aim to publish at least abstracts from such meetings so that related workers will be aware of what goes on.

The Society hopes by means of this Journal to stimulate research into hydrology and to induce a greater application of hydrological methods and investigations before land management or engineering schemes are carried out. Many difficulties will be encountered and the development of the intellectual basis will be a slow process. A formidable yet not unsurmountable task lies ahead; but the spirit of unselfishness and co-operation at present prevailing among those associated with hydrology cannot fail to produce results.

The formation of the Society has been a culmination of many hopes, but culmination must not lead to stagnation. Rather than stop at a plateau of effort and thought, members should always be looking up to the next steep rise so that the Society is always dynamic and there is a constant increase in knowledge and a spontaneous flow of ideas - such that other bodies interested in hydrology will catch a spark.

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