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EDITORIAL

Those interested in hydrology will have drawn much encouragement from events of the last six months.

Last December, the Symposium on the Use and Control of Water in New Zealand demonstrated most strikingly that water users, engineers, scientists, soil conservators, administrators and many others are eager for the development of a common approach. Moreover, Government interest and support was firmly expressed by the Hon. Minister of Works in his opening address.

This expression of the national need brought with it a recognition of hydrology as a key element in technical preparedness. To quote an authority well qualified to advise the gathering—Professor Robert E. Dils, of Colorado State University: "If we are going to speak a common language with the biologist, the engineer, the soil scientist and others there is a need for a common base, and I would hope we could bring hydrology into all our disciplines". Delegates brought forward many recommendations (reprinted in this issue) designed to strengthen hydrological work and foster methods for the effective use of data.

Other notable developments of the recent period have included the setting up of a national programme for IHD, important recommendations for future organization by Dr D. A. Williams (Administrator, U.S. Soil Conservation Service), action by the State Services Commission to provide careers in hydrological work for graduates, and a visit by Dr S. A. Schumm (a senior geologist of the Water Resources Division, U.S. Geological Survey).

The views of Dr S. A. Schumm on geomorphological research necessary in New Zealand are expressed in an article in the June issue of "Soil and Water". Certain of his views are new—e.g., the study of erosion through geomorphic research, including "hillslope hydrology". Others help to clarify important national problems—e.g., ways and means of relating erosional research to river channel behaviour, etc., and the need to create a favourable research environment at the national level. Included in his observations is his strong support for the national system of having representative basins (regional catchments) for basic long term data and the complementary system of small experimental basins for detailed studies of soil-water-plant relationships.

Such views give focus and direction to future hydrological work and point to the fact that New Zealand can benefit greatly from a much closer association with overseas scientists.