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The beginning of a new era

Despite many years of a successful policy for our *Journal*, the Journal Committee is in the course of adopting a new approach with which to enter the present decade. The objectives are to improve the readability of the *Journal*, without forfeiting the quality achieved in the past, by adding an extra dimension through the inclusion of applied-engineering papers, i.e. technically oriented papers. This is largely in response to a popular demand by members to be made aware of the implementation of engineering developments and the adoption of designs that often determine the margin between success and failure of a project. The *Journal* will contain both research-orientated and applied-engineering papers. We are confident that this new approach will widen the readership of the *Journal* and constitute a positive contribution to the dissemination of information. Should there be any further suggestions from members, the Journal Committee is always keen to hear new ideas.

The move of our Secretariat from Kelvin House at the end of March to Cape Towers in MacLaren Street marks the end of a historic chapter and the 'beginning of a new era' (a common phrase today!). To members, Kelvin House has been the meeting place for Branch Meetings, the AGM, and pub meetings. These activities will continue at different venues, and I would urge members to start making themselves familiar with the Secretariat offices in Cape Towers. The mining groups have been extremely helpful and co-operative in making alternative venues available for formal meetings, and, on behalf of Council and myself, I extend a deep appreciation for this co-operation. The social venue will take a little longer to organize, but efforts are under way to arrange this.

The *Journal* is but one of the many benefits that accrue to members of the Institute and, with the new approach envisaged, this benefit should be greatly improved. However, other functions, in terms of technical programmes and branch meetings, are opportunities in which our members can share on a technical and social level. I appeal to members to participate in these activities, and to canvass increased membership and so encourage the organizers of various functions to make the Institute an active and rewarding organization for its members and office bearers.

President