

PROCEEDINGS OF THE APRIL, 1969, GENERAL MEETING

The April General Meeting of the Institute was held in Kelvin House, Johannesburg, on 16th April, 1969, at 4.30 p.m.

Mr R. C. J. Goode (President) was in the Chair.

There were also present nineteen Members, including Messrs R. J. Adamson, F. P. Bath, J. K. E. Douglas, A. R. C. Fowler, P. Lambooy, D. G. Maxwell and J. A. Nixon, (Council Members), Messrs E. L. Atkinson, I. R. Chaston, J. L. Edwards, J. S. Hall, S. A. Hancox, A. F. Lee, W. K. B. Loftus, H. S. Simpson, A. N. Shand, R. A. Wilson, H. J. Wright and J. E. Van Leeuwen.

Nine Associate Members, including Messrs O. Davel, G. Douglas, P. R. Garcia, D. J. Murphy, D. Rankin, G. Schwartz, H. N. Singer, S. Thompson and D. A. Viljoen.

One Graduate Mr D. Bosley.

Ten Visitors, including Messrs S. Adler, C. E. Alvey, B. J. Botha, K. Chant, L. W. Davis, R. N. Guest, R. V. Keet, E. G. Keown, M. D. Lourie and S. McMurray.

Secretary Mr D. C. Visser.

Total present: Forty-one.

MINUTES

The President requested that confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting be held over as they would only be appearing in the *Journal* of the following month. Agreed.

MEMBERSHIP

The President: "I have much pleasure in announcing that the names of the under-mentioned candidates, having been published in accordance with By-law 5.2.2, Council has elected them to membership of the Institute in the following grades:

Members: Kenneth Sinclair Rae, Ian Robert Malcolm Chaston.

Associate Members: Norman Isaac Thomas, Ian Connell Robinson.

Graduates: Simon Richard Jeremy Perkins, Bleddyn Reginald Lear, David Williams.

Affiliate: Richard Robert Will.

Students: Angus David McElwee, Clive Renard Archer, Peter Andrew Locke.

MEMBER TRANSFERRED TO A HIGHER GRADE

From Graduate to Associate Member: Patrick James Burns.

I welcome the newly elected members to the Institute and congratulate the member who has been transferred to a higher grade." (*Applause*).

GENERAL BUSINESS

The President reminded members that a buffet supper at a cost of 55c would be available after the meeting.

PAPER FOR PRESENTATION

The President noted with pleasure that a strong contingent from De Beers and the Finsch Mine were present. He expressed gratitude to Mr Loftus for coming

all the way to Johannesburg, and to Messrs Shand, Simpson, Wright and Rankin for coming to present the paper.

Mr Rankin presented the paper entitled: "Mining and treatment plant practice at the Finsch Mine, De Beers Consolidated Mines Ltd.", written jointly with Messrs W. B. Loftus and H. J. Stucke.

The President commented that it had been some time since a paper on the topic of mining and the recovery of diamonds had been presented to the Institute, and that he had found the paper most interesting as it was well-balanced and informative, ranging from the initial prospecting programme to the recovery of the final product. He also mentioned that the discussion on stripping, which had been accompanied by pictures of the model at various stages of excavation, had indicated very clearly the quantity of waste rock which has to be removed in such an open-cast operation.

The President said that he would be interested in further discussion on the factors used to determine the resultant slope of the walls of the excavation and expressed the hope that members would hear more on this subject and on the means taken to check the final stability of the walls, in later years or during the proposed symposium on open-cast mining next April.

He remarked that adaptation of the Gunson seed sorter to collect diamonds was particularly fascinating and that further development using the principle of X-ray fluorescence was still more intriguing and that he was very grateful to the authors for bringing a prototype model to the meeting for demonstration purposes.

He added that he was very impressed with the developments which had taken place in such a short time. The President then thanked the authors for presenting an excellent and interesting paper.

Messrs H. J. Wright, I. R. M. Chaston, G. Schwartz and H. Simpson then contributed to the paper. (These contributions will appear in a later issue of the *Journal*).

PAPERS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION

The President noted that the papers were listed on the agenda and requested that anyone wishing to contribute to these papers, should submit their papers, in writing, to the Secretary.

CLOSURE

Having thanked the authors and contributors and members for their attendance, the President declared the meeting closed. He then called on Mr Rankin to demonstrate the diamond sorting machine to members.

The meeting closed at 6.20 p.m.