

different noise levels and hearing changes from which it emerges that the daily exposure should not exceed 90 decibels if permanent damage is to be avoided. The effects of noise on communication by speech at different distances, and upon performance of work, is specified. From the mining industry's point of view the papers upon the successful running of hearing conservation programmes are perhaps of more importance.

There is a section on the adverse effects of electromagnetic and of laser radiations which is, probably, not relevant to the mining industry but is of great importance to the industries in which those radiations are used extensively.

There is an excellent section on lighting of work spaces which should be read in conjunction with the recent publication in this Journal by Human Sciences Laboratory on this subject.

Finally a large section is devoted to effects of heat

on man with the main paper by Dr Hans Wentzel of the Max-Planck Institute in Dortmund and although there is much which is commendable from an academic point of view in this section, there is unfortunately little of practical use to the mining engineer. The unrelated and unco-ordinated papers may well be compared with the H.S.L.'s broad programme of research on the heat problems in the gold mines which has four specific objects. They are to acclimatize workmen adequately, to recognise heat intolerant individuals and remove them from risk work, to set limits of cooling power of mine atmospheres which are safe for men to work in, and, where conventional ventilation fails, to develop microclimate cooling systems (such as the pre-frozen jacket being investigated at present) to protect the workmen and ensure high productivity.

C.H.W.

WITBANK/MIDDELBURG BRANCH

PRESENT

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, held on Friday the 20th August, 1971, at 7.45 p.m. in the Boulevard Hotel, Witbank.

Mr J. Meintjies in the Chair, 15 Fellows, 7 Members, 2 Associate Members and 10 Visitors.

Mr Meintjies extended a welcome to all the members and their wives, and the many visitors and their wives. A special welcome to Mr Robinson the outgoing President of the Institute and Prof. Howat the President Elect and Mrs Howat.

The minutes were read and adopted.

The Chairman read his Report for the past year and also the Financial Statement. Mr E. Jackson proposed the acceptance of the Financial Statement and Mr Winship seconded it.

Mr Meintjies thanked Mr Vic Robinson for all the help he had given throughout the past year. He also thanked the outgoing Committee for their support, and the Secretary for arranging the function.

Mr Meintjies congratulated Mr Alex Bain on his

election as Chairman and asked him to continue with the meeting.

Mr Bain thanked Mr Meintjies for the good work which he had done in the past year and then announced the names of the Committee for the ensuing year.

A. Bain	Chairman
G. Carlyon	Vice Chairman
J. Meintjies	Past Chairman
I. Botha	E. J. Jackson
A. W. L. Brereton	B. D. McNiece
N. J. P. Coetzee	A. N. Turner
B. T. Hosking	W. D. Winship

Mr B. D. McNiece proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring Chairman.

The meeting closed at 8.10 p.m.

Dinner was served and after coffee Mr Vic Robinson gave a most amusing and informative review of the Institute's activities.

Mr Bain thanked Mr Robinson for his address and Prof and Mrs Howat and Mr Robinson for coming down to Witbank for our Annual General Meeting.