

## DISCUSSION

MR BRAMSON —I would suggest as a further small provision which might render the conditions under which Associate Members are admitted to the Institution slightly more elastic, a general clause enabling the Council to elect an applicant an Associate Member if he holds a combination of qualifications each of which would be insufficient in itself to admit him, but in combination would enable the Council to admit him

THE HON SECRETARY —If you refer to Rule 4(b) you will see that the whole thing is really implied in this sentence, but the Council thought that the members should be asked to give their opinion upon these proposals, which would act as a guide for the Council

CAPTAIN SAYERS —The view I take of the proposals mentioned in the Chairman's speech is that the Council is ready to consider these proposals under the provisions of Clause 4(b). It is a publication of the fact that the Council is prepared to consider applications on their individual merits

THE HON SECRETARY —Yes. It will enable the Council to grade applicants with less doubt than at present. If the members agree to these proposals, it is an indication to the Council that at any rate the kind of applicants here mentioned shall be considered eligible

MR BRAMSON —Referring to pilots, one of my colleagues has only Class A licence for medical reasons, in every other way he functions as Class B. My contention is that his medical qualifications have no bearing on the question

THE HON SECRETARY —In that case, if he puts on his application "debarred Class B for medical reasons," he will be judged on his merits and accepted. I do not know why Class B was insisted upon. Perhaps the real reason was that there is a certain class of war-time pilots who would not make desirable Associate Members

MR WINGFIELD —I do feel very strongly myself that here we have rather a limitation of the scope of the Institution than an extension of it. There is something almost invidious about some of the terms, and that is not very inviting. I think with regard to Draughtsmen that the word "responsible" should be omitted in sending the Rules to those who want to join, for they surely are responsible in wishing to join the Institution, which has as an object the "encouragement, development and protection" of aeronautical engineering. We ought, therefore, to try not to prevent anyone who is anxious to develop in aeronautics being put off from joining the Institution

I put forward these suggestions with diffidence, because I was a pilot only, but it does seem to me to be rather limiting the potential membership of the Institution. We should have a resolution in general terms, so that it is left entirely to the Council to decide what new members shall be elected. It is impossible for a society to carry out its avowed objects without membership, and it is important that the membership should be as large as possible.

It is perhaps rather sentimental, but I think in these days the question of a University education should be dropped. It is possible for everyone to educate themselves by giving always of their best, therefore to my mind it is undesirable to differentiate as to the persons who should be admitted. It should be open to anyone who wishes. Only when the membership spreads will the Institution be able to accomplish research and development. I therefore ask you to give a very much broader scope than is proposed.

MR BRAMSON —I think we must remember that there is a limit to the extent to which the scope of an Institution such as this can be broadened. The object of the Institution is to protect and help its members, and one of the chief ways in which it can and does help its members is by the distinction which it confers on them, and if the qualifications are unduly broadened then that distinction vanishes. Therefore there must be some limit. It is for us to define that limit. The proposals before us do broaden it very much.

With reference to responsible draughtsmen, I think that the word "responsible" there is used rather in a special manner. It does not mean that draughtsmen who are not responsible are irresponsible, it means that they are people who not merely push a pencil, but perform a function involving their own initiative. Therefore the distinction is not, or should not be, taken as invidious to those who are not.

THE HON SECRETARY —A responsible draughtsman is one who does a certain amount of design work and can calculate all his minor strengths.

MR WINGFIELD —I certainly think that there should be *grades* of membership. What I did suggest was that it was undesirable to limit the *scope* of membership.

CAPT SAYERS —As far as I can understand, this matter is merely a note stating that "the Council have under consideration the broadening, etc," and is an indication of certain ideas they have in their minds upon which they would like the opinion of members, and not anything in the way of an amendment to the Rules. It is merely an indication of the type of man to which the Council think we should appeal for a larger membership, providing that they have what the Council consider adequate qualifications. As far as I can see, the only practical result that can come from an approval of these suggestions is to draw attention publicly to Rule 4 (b), which states "The Council shall, in cases where the applicant has furnished absolute proof of his training, knowledge and experience, or other qualifications, have power to

admit the applicant to such grade as he has applied for, or otherwise, without examination," and to advertise at the same time that they think there are many experienced aeronautical draughtsmen, active pilots, ground engineers, etc., etc., whom they would like to have apply for membership, and whom the Council would be willing to consider on their merits. It seems to me that that is all that is before you at the present moment. Are you ready to approve the Council stressing a little more than has been previously done, the powers they already have under Rule 4 (b), and their proposal to invite such people to submit their qualifications for consideration? It does not seem to me that this is anything more than an indication of the type of people the Council would like to have.

THE CHAIRMAN —Captain Sayers has put the matter in the most apt way possible.

THE HON SECRETARY —Yes, that is exactly what the Council desired to convey.

CAPT SAYERS —I move a formal motion that this meeting expresses its confidence in the discretion of the Council by supporting the suggestion made that they should seek or invite from among people of the classes mentioned herein, as many candidates for admission to the Institution as possible, and they should make full use of the powers given to the munder Rule 4 (b) to elect candidates under the appropriate grades.

The resolution was put to the vote and passed with one dissident (MR WINGFIELD).

FLYING-OFFICER ALLEN —I should like to propose an amendment by saying that the number of years should be omitted in the case of draughtsmen.

(This amendment was carried unanimously.)

7 The following points were brought up under "Other business."

THE HON SECRETARY moved that the annual subscription of all new members joining up to the end of the present year should hold good until the end of 1926. This was seconded by MR GLASS and passed unanimously.

It was agreed that Patents Agents should be included among the class of people from whom applications for admission would be welcomed.

DR THURSTON and MR GLASS (Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer respectively of the Emergency Committee) reported on the work of

the Committee since its formation at the last Extraordinary Meeting. The sum of £100 had been actually received in donations, the list being as follows

	£	s	d
Flying-Officer R E H Allen	1	1	0
Flight-Lieut J C Atkinson	1	1	0
Colonel Belaiew	3	3	0
Mr M L Bramson	6	12	0
Capt C W E Browse	1	1	0
Major H C Davidson	5	0	0
Mr G H Dowty	1	1	0
Mr S H Evans	1	1	0
Mr F W Garrett	1	1	0
Mr W Villa Gilbert	5	5	0
Mr A I Gillmore	1	0	0
Mr Wm Glass	5	5	0
Mr A F Houlberg	1	1	0
Mr A E Hudson	1	1	0
Mr T W Langley	1	0	0
Mr H Lloyd	3	3	0
Mr H B Molesworth	5	0	0
Lieut N Olechnovitch	1	1	0
Mr A F Owen	5	0	0
Mr E G Ponsonby	5	0	0
Mr T B Ringwood	1	1	0
Mr A V Roe	5	5	0
Mr H Rook	5	5	0
Major J C Savage	10	10	0
Capt W H Sayers	1	1	0
Mr H Scott-Paine	10	10	0
Squadron-Leader J Sowrey	2	2	0
Dr Thurston	5	5	0
Lieut L A Wingfield	1	1	0
Mr T W Willis	3	3	0
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	£100	0	0
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As a result of the Committee's endeavours there had been one or two additional members, while some members in arrears with subscription had sent them in. Many letters of appreciation and encouragement had been received from members, and promises to secure new members and in other ways help the work of the Institution. It was therefore hoped that the Committee would now be officially constituted to carry on its work so long as might be found necessary.

MR BRAMSON —I am of the same opinion, and suggest that the Committee be kept fairly small. At the same time I think it is essential that a group of members of as large a number as possible be formed for the sole purpose of obtaining new members, and I suggest that this should include everyone present to-night. It could be called a "New Membership" Committee.

FLIGHT-LIEUT ATKINSON —I think that everybody is trying their hardest to get new members, and will continue to do so. I personally am doing this, and I do not think that a Committee is necessary.

THE HON SECRETARY —I should like to say that it is not customary for the Council of the Institution to ask people to become members, but there is no reason why a Committee should not do so.

DR THURSTON —I am particularly grateful for the wonderful way in which the members of the Institution have supported the Emergency Committee, and the fact that the members possess such a spirit and are so willing to help, just a few gathered together, is to me proof that a little Committee can do a very valuable work. For economical reasons I should be sorry if the Emergency Committee were to disappear, because I have several hundred sheets of notepaper on hand that I should like to use up.

Turning to the subscription list I want to say that this money has been subscribed by sacrifice, and the Committee accept it with the utmost gratitude, realising that money given in that way will have a very sweetening influence and achieve far more than money obtained in the ordinary way. I therefore wish to record the most grateful thanks of the Committee for these donations. We have now been through fire and water, and it is not British to go under, we have been in a tight corner, but we are going on to a larger and fuller life.

THE CHAIRMAN —Speaking on behalf of the Council, I must thank the Emergency Committee very much for all they have done. It has not been recognised officially, but they have had the full help and support of the Council.

MR RINGWOOD —Would it be in order to ask the Emergency Committee to accept en bloc the new title "Committee of Ways and Means"? As the Emergency Committee has done so well we shall be very much obliged to them if they will carry on the work under this new title.

FLYING-OFFICER ALLEN —I second that proposal.

MR BRAMSON —I should like to suggest a larger Committee. The only object of a Committee is to organise a campaign. We shall, I think, continue to function, but if you want to stretch your wings or go far afield a

small Committee will not do. We must have as large a Committee as we can collect. The idea in my mind has been to ask everyone here to become a supporter of the campaign. Each member should define some particular field which he can tackle.

THE HON. SECRETARY —The Ways and Means Committee will be the Emergency Committee continued, with power to co-opt as many members as they wish, and every member should be co-opted for a definite period.

CAPTAIN SAVERS —Give the Committee power to allocate to any member of the Institution any particular job which that member is willing to undertake. Speaking personally, as long as I am connected with the technical press I do not feel I am entitled to be a member of any Committee concerned with the work of any Institution. I may have to praise or blame, and cannot do that if I am a Committee member. But there is no reason why as a member I should not do any job in my power. The Emergency Committee can look after the organisation and simply give members any particular job they wish.

DR THURSTON —I should like to propose that we send this subscription list to every member, with a notification to them all that these donations have been received and acknowledged by the Council. I think we ought to appoint two auditors to go into these matters and see that everything is in good order.

MR GLASS —I formally move that the Emergency Committee be reconstituted officially under its present name.

The motion was seconded by DR THURSTON, and it was thereupon decided that the Emergency Committee be officially constituted as from the date of this meeting.

FLYING-OFFICER ALLEN —I should like to ask whether, when applicants are awaiting election, notices of their names, addresses and business are sent round to members. That is done by the Institution of Automobile Engineers.

THE HON. SECRETARY —That has not so far been done, because we have had to cut down our printing expenses.

FLYING-OFFICER ALLEN —Could it not go at the end of the Minutes of Proceedings, together with any notes of interest concerning members? I feel we should like to know more about other members. I therefore recommend that it is considered desirable that some steps should be taken to circularise members monthly if convenient, with the names of applicants for membership and general information concerning members.

MR BRAMSON —I should like to ask what will be the extent of authority of the Emergency Committee?

THE HON SECRETARY —Matters of policy and finance must be submitted to the Council, and I think also that all recommendations should be brought before them

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The business of the meeting then ended, and before the close Mr Glass proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr Molesworth for his good services as Chairman, which was seconded by Captain Sayers and passed with acclamation

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#### CORRECTION

Attention is drawn to an error in Minutes of Proceedings No 15. In the reply made by Lieut Olechnovitch to the discussion on his paper, the word "efficiency" in line 3, page 12, should read "inertia"

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#### NOTE

*The Institution office at 60, Chancery Lane, W C 2, will be closed for the summer vacation from 17th to 29th August, inclusive*

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