

plan for the next lecture session, and your ideas on any specific subjects will be welcomed. It is hoped to arrange a visit to the Cierva Autogiro Company during the summer, on the same lines as the visit to the Fairey Aviation Company last year.

It has been a year of real progress in helicopter development, both from the manufacturers' and operators' point of view. Crop-spraying has been carried out commercially for the first time in this country and abroad by British-owned companies and personnel. The helicopter world speed record has been captured by the Fairey Gyrodyne, a helicopter flying school has operated at Prestwick, and the first helicopter Air Mail contract given to the B.E.A. Helicopter Unit, which unit has also made great strides in night and blind flying development. The "Hare and Tortoise" operation showed the possibilities of really rapid travel between two great capitals, and, finally, first flights have been successfully carried out by the Westland Sikorsky, Cierva W 11 and Cierva W 14 helicopters.

At our last Annual General Meeting it was decided to give our Emblem a year's trial and, in the absence of adverse comment or better suggestion, it is proposed to adopt this emblem permanently.

The first award of the Cierva Memorial Prize Essay was made during the year for a paper of a very high order of merit and the sub-committee are now considering this year's entries. I would point out that the value of the prize is £25, and ask your support again this year for the essay, details of which will be announced shortly.

In connection with awards, it is very interesting to note that the Royal Aeronautical Society have made two of their major awards to Members of our Association—Mr W. STEWART, the Busk Memorial Prize, and Captain R. N. LIP TROT, the Bronze Medal. Mr ALAN BRISTOW has also been honoured by the Royal Aero Club.

Our thanks are due to Wing Cdr BRIE and members of the B.E.A. Helicopter Unit for the presentation of a framed set of first helicopter Air Mail Covers, which you may see on show here today and which may be studied at your leisure in our office.

I have again to report extremely pleasant relationships with other bodies, notably the Royal Aeronautical Society, Royal Aero Club and G.A.P.A.N., to whom our thanks are due for continued help and guidance.

Finally, on behalf of the Council and myself personally, I wish to thank all those Honorary Officers and Members of Sub-Committees, together with our Auditors and Accountants, who have made possible the smooth working of our Association during the past year. In particular I would mention our Vice-Chairman, Mr HILL, Honorary Secretary, Major RICHARDSON, and Chairman and Editor of the Journal Sub-Committee, Messrs SMETTEM and ARKELL, and, last but not least, our very hard-working and enthusiastic Assistant Secretary, Miss MACPHEE.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

At the meeting of the Executive Council on the 26th May, 1949, the following officers were unanimously re-elected for the coming year —

<i>Chairman</i>	H. A. Marsh, A.F.C.
<i>Vice-Chairman</i>	N. J. G. Hill
<i>Hon. Treasurer</i>	G. C. Turner, A.F.C.
<i>Hon. Secretary</i>	Major J. W. Richardson

Mr J. S. SHAPIRO has been elected to serve on the Publications Sub-Committee as Technical Advisor.

Group Captain R. N. LIP TROT, Mr O. FITZWILLIAMS and Mr H. ROBERTS have been elected to serve on the Examining Panel for the 1949/50 Cierva Memorial Prize Essay Competition.