

man's speech to a recently formed consulting firm was queried, and the Chairman pointed out that he tried to list the notable achievements of the past year and not just the firms in the industry.

Finally in reply to a question as to whether those whose Membership had lapsed would be expected to pay entrance fees in the event of their rejoining the Association, the Chairman stated that all cases were considered on their merits.

The Meeting closed at 3.50 p.m.

Those present were then given a short address by Mr. Wigdortchik on his impressions and experiences obtained during his visit to the American Helicopter Society Forum in Philadelphia in March.

The Chairman's Address

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN : I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report for 1949 of the Helicopter Association of Great Britain. Our Association has been in existence for five years, and during those years we have grown from a small body to a Society that is increasingly recognised. In this position, we now fulfil the most important aim of our formation—that is the authoritative dissemination of information and discussion on all aspects of rotating wing aircraft. In this field, we have earned for ourselves universal recognition, and we can count amongst our members representatives of all aspects of the art, from the scientists to the aircraft engineers and pilots who put the helicopters to their practical use.

As a background to this achievement, we have established a resourceful administration and office staff who, together with many voluntary helpers, have made all this possible. But it must not be forgotten that we owe the financial means of our progress to the generosity of the industry. We cannot, however, accept such help indefinitely, and your council has resolved that your Association should stand on its own feet during the next financial year. It is true that we had hoped to do this before, but this would have meant curtailing some of the development of the Association which we have believed to be necessary.

I am pleased to report again that our relations with other bodies, particularly the Royal Aeronautical Society, Royal Aero Club and the Guild of Air Pilots and Navigators, have been as cordial as ever.

During the year we have suffered a reduction in our membership strength and although this was to be expected in view of the higher subscription rates, nevertheless it is imperative that we regain this loss. In this connection, your Council is doing everything in its power to attract new Members and I earnestly entreat all Members to do likewise.

Some innovations are being introduced such as the Advisory Panel, with the intention of rendering further services to Members and it is hoped that we shall be able to offer further advantages to prospective Members during the year.

In view of the vital importance of maintaining financial equilibrium, your Council is exercising every constraint upon expenditure and is, at the same time, actively concerned in increasing revenue. In this connection, I extend a hearty welcome to those new Council Members who have to-day been elected. Their services will be extremely valuable to us in this coming year.

We were able in the past year to combine the Annual Dinner with the occasion of the first lecture of the season, in the course of which our Guest of Honour, SIR GEORGE CRIBBETT (Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation), made a speech in which he affirmed his faith in the future of the commercial helicopter.

This arrangement of combining the first lecture and Annual Dinner, was found to be most satisfactory to all concerned and we intend to mark the opening of the lecture season in the same way during the coming year. Also, we hope to have some informal meetings during the Summer, although the nature of these have yet to be decided.

Our helicopter industry has the following achievements to its credit. The Westland Aircraft Company has obtained a full Certificate of Airworthiness for their Westland Sikorski S.51, the first British Helicopter in this class. Three of their machines have been sent to Malaya with special equipment for the evacuation of casualties and for use in other roles, and there are now 17 in operation. The Cierva Air Horse has been flown at its all-up-weight of 17,500 lb. and autorotation tests have been carried out. The Skeeter Mark II has made successful initial flight tests, and normal development work is now in progress.

The Bristol Aeroplane Company are continuing with their test programme of the 171, while another of this type is at present undergoing flight performance tests at A.F.E.E. Beaulieu.

In the field of operations, it is of interest to note that your Association has actively assisted in the preparation of the briefs for the New York City helicopter case. Our co-operation was requested by the American Aircraft Industries Council and a full dossier of our views and appropriate data was contributed. It is also pleasing to note the British European Airways obtained the world's first certification for flight under instrument flight rules and that, moreover, an operation of scheduled flying was undertaken with these conditions. The Corporation will also inaugurate on June 1st, the first helicopter scheduled passenger service in the world.

Messrs. Pest Control Ltd., again carried out spraying operations in the Sudan last autumn, and have now re-opened their seasonal programme in this country, and are extending their field of activity to Switzerland, where two of their aircraft are operating at this moment.

It is with regret that we note the death of Dr. Alexander Klemin, so long a protagonist of rotary wings and President of the American Helicopter Society. We have sent expressions of our sympathy to the Society.

We were represented at the recent Annual Forum of the American Helicopter Society by one of our Council Members, MR. L. S. WIGDORTCHIK, on which occasion the Association film on British Helicopters was shown.

I am pleased to report again that your Association has, from time to time, been represented on helicopter committees set up by various ministries and other bodies.

Finally, on behalf of the Council, I wish to thank those honorary officers, members of sub-committees and others, who together with our auditors and accountants have made possible the smooth running of the Association during the past year. Although the names of all those who have willingly given their assistance during the past year are too numerous to mention, I do feel that the work of our Honorary Secretary together with his Office staff, deserve particular recognition.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

At the Meeting of the Executive Council held on the 26th May, 1950, the following officers were re-elected for the coming year :—

<i>Chairman :</i>	H. A. MARSH, A.F.C., A.F.R.Ae.S.
<i>Vice-Chairman :</i>	N. J. G. HILL, A.M.I.Mech.E., A.R.Ae.S.
<i>Honorary Treasurer :</i>	G. C. TURNER, A.F.C.
<i>Honorary Secretary :</i>	MAJOR J. W. RICHARDSON.
<i>Honorary Editor :</i>	H. ROBERTS, B.Sc., D.I.C., A.F.R.Ae.S., A.M.I.Mech.E.
<i>Honorary Assistant Editor :</i>	C. C. COOPER.