

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of IIW was held on 22nd December, '97. We welcome our new President Mr. S. K. Burman, Vice-Presidents Mr. M. P. Dhanuka, Mr. R. S. Babu and Mr. S. Chowdhury, and Hony. Treasurer Mr. R. Kher. We look forward to a prosperous New Year with our dynamic office bearers in the lead.

During 1997, four issues of the Indian Welding Journal were published, spaced quarterly and as per schedule. While printing of the Journal has been regularised, packaging of the Journal prior to despatch warrants further scrutiny to rationalise the work. However, complaints from members of not receiving the Journal have significantly decreased due to the courier service engaged by us.

The current issues of the Journal contain besides the technical papers such other features as international and national news pertaining to the industry, reports on seminars here and abroad as well as other technical events, product news, information on books and other publications. "Shop-floor welding news" columns are to feature in the coming issues of the Journal, but this depends essentially on active participation from our members in this regard. Professional proof-reading has been introduced since April '97 thus improving the standard of the Journal.

The financial aspect of the Journal remains as dismal as ever; on an average less than 40% of the production cost is met from advertisement revenue. Members, it is hoped, will fully realise this pressing problem and come forward and exert greater effort to collect advertisements - the only source of income for the Journal. There have lately been suggestions to accept advertisements also for decorating the front cover of the journal. This is under consideration.

Library : After reviewing the arrangement of books on the library shelves at the Headquarters, the sub-committee has re-arranged the books following a better subject-indexing system. In response to a popular demand, the Library sub-committee is also reviewing its lending mandate.

In this issue of the Journal some technical papers presented at the National Welding Meet '97 on "Welding for Energy Sector" are a noteworthy feature. The importance of this seminar in a country such as ours, where plant productivity in the energy sector is well below the level achieved in the industrialised countries and plant shut-down effecting repair-engineering is the order of the day, had obviously struck the chord in many. It was well reflected in the valedictory session address of Shri Anshuman Ghatak, Ex-Chairman of D.V.C. & W.B.S.E.B. His concern for "welding that can do the repair either without entailing a shut-down or shut-down for a small period" has been echoed in several other papers presented at the seminar. The problem needs further examination at industry and institutional R&D levels for progressive elimination of the factors causing frequent failure at power plants — a great national concern. Let that also be the welding engineer's deep individual concern.

Wishing you all a happy and prosperous New Year,

Sd/- Dr. P. Majumdar
Editor