PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

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The New Zealand Weed and Pest Control Society is by mutual agreement a society concerned with applied science. To the members it is obvious that their society forms a bridge between the fundamental findings of science, and the end-user of recognized products and methods. Because such information has value for a period of time, the Society publishes it as *Proceedings*, and also provides a further needed service in its other valuable publications. These achievements are not possible without the valued assistance of those botanists, entomologists, plant pathologists, and other experimental workers whose fundamental interest is to provide basic scientific information, particularly in identification of species of plants and animals, and the problems they may cause.

The Society today faces three facts which it must now accept as part of the pest control scene, and which will necessarily determine its future.

First, pressures on scientists undertaking fundamental work, and on the funds provided for such activities, are today such as to discourage such workers from an interest in an applied Society. However, such researchers must be made aware that we need the information only they can produce, and that activities such as ours, which demonstrate the problem-solving powers of fundamental research findings, are not only a legitimate, but are for them and for us, a necessary part of the total research scene. The fact is, we need each other's activities to complete the total research exercise. The Society must work to bring this point home to fundamental scientists.

A second fact has some bearing on this. Today's call for sound ecological practices in all our activities again emphasizes our need of help from the fundamental scientist. This, with changes pending in cropping methods, demands that all the information we can get must be brought before our members to enable them, and the end-user of pest control materials, to move as rapidly as possible towards a more intelligent and effective use of up-to-date methods. Part of this information is available only from the pure research worker. The balance comes from our own members and workers in allied fields. Only by working together can we make known the best information and point to its ability to enable us to solve problems intelligently.

To add even further to this, there is an ever-expanding field before us. Our declared interest is the use of agricultural chemicals, excluding fertilizers. Two recent introductions—the use of growth control preparations and the appearance of systemic fungicides on the commercial market—suggest expanded usefulness of chemicals in the cropping field, including tree cropping. They offer a further challenge to the Society to continue to expand its usefulness for the future benefit of an increasingly wide audience.