ANNIVERSARY ADDRESS

IN his address as guest speaker at the anniversary dinner, Dan A. Watkins, Managing Director of Ivon Watkins-Dow Ltd., expressed his pleasure at being present for the 21st anniversary of the conference. Appropriately, he recalled events and personalities at the first meeting which led to the formation of the conference, and the initial meeting of the conference itself.

It could be said that the foundations were laid during the visit to New Zealand of Dr A. M. S. Pridham, of Cornell University, U.S.A. With him came the introduction of low-volume spraying, which was to lead to intensive development of spray application techniques generally.

A representative meeting in New Plymouth inspired the formation of the conference at Lincoln Agricultural College on August 10 and 11, 1948. J. W. Calder, Acting-Director of the College, made the introduction and on his nomination William Machin, Chairman of the School of Agriculture, was elected Chairman of the conference.

The organizing committee under Mr Calder's chairmanship comprised Dr M. M. Burns, J. W. Calder, M. A. Black, L. W. McCaskill and R. H. Bevin (Secretary).

Among those who gave papers or were associated closely with the conference were A. W. Riddolls, P. Lynch, Dr B. W. Doak, F. C. Allen and C. Iverson.

It had been a great feeling to be associated with so many people in industry and then in Government getting together to make their contribution to the building up of our pastoral economy, said Mr Watkins. The big breakthrough in the application methods of weedkillers came with the introduction of low-volume spraying, followed by the use of aeroplanes and helicopters. Then there was the development of high-volume spraying.

In the early stages of weed control in New Zealand, a great contribution was made by A. J. Healy with botanical knowledge, so that chemical applicators could recognize weeds. Through extension work, the knowledge was carried to the farmers, who were thus able to distinguish weeds and have a better understanding of their problems.

From small beginnings grew a tremendous array of products for use in dealing with many problems associated with agriculture. This meant living with a new lexicon of names and terms such as "overshot".

Mr Watkins, in further tracing the development of weed control, said that the saying "One man's meat is another man's poison" assumed a new significance when there arose the difficulty of treating susceptible crops in areas once given over to general agriculture. Vineyards particularly emphasized the need for containing drift. With the increase in workers in the field of weed and pest control came more and better techniques; and also economic and management factors. For instance, how was the distribution to be made of costs involved in producing new chemicals and techniques needed to overcome problems of drift and susceptibility of crops in areas of changing agricultural practices.

Mr Watkins also emphasized the part legislation had to play in the new era of research in weed control. Now, after 21 years of the Conference's existence, we were really only starting. We had entered a period of change and also a time of challenge which we had to accept.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

At the 21st Weed and Pest Control Conference, Honorary Life Memberships were conferred on two members.

L. J. MATTHEWS

To serve as Secretary of the Society for 16 years is in itself a significant contribution. But to perform as well the onerous duty of technical editor of the Society's Conference *Proceedings*—to say nothing of numerous personal published works—is a remarkable achievement. Mr Matthews has done all of these things and in doing them has set a standard which is high indeed.

The efficiency with which the annual conference is invariably conducted, the uniform standard of the *Proceedings* and the promptness with which they are published are directly attributable to the drive and dedication of Mr Matthews.

D. A. WATKINS

Without the foresight and enthusiasm of Mr Watkins this would not have been the 21st Conference. It was his suggestion that governmental, industrial and farmer interests be brought together at regular intervals to discuss weed control matters that set in train events which led to holding the first Conference at Lincoln College and his support over the next few years played a considerable part in ensuring its establishment.

Mr Watkin's continued interest and support in subsequent years has also helped the Society in achieving its self-imposed aims.