**PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS
to the 39th Conference 1986
T.M. PATTERSON**

Although a Presidential address is remembered by few people, and this one is likely to be no exception, it is customary to give one and have it recorded.

My predecessor expressed some regret last year that perhaps little had changed during his term in office. At least that can't be said for the last 12 months.

We live in a world of change. Few things stand still or remain the same. Even the human statue I saw on an Amsterdam street last month went to bed at night.

During the nearly 30 years of my involvement with this Society, I have seen considerable change. I recall the "good old days" when chemicals were largely hormone type herbicides of which you could easily write and pronounce their common names.

Incidentally on a TV talk back programme last week, it was stated that one reason why 2, 4, 5-T is often mentioned as the cause of every imaginable ill, is the ease of remembering the brief chemical abbreviation. Certainly easier than aminobenzenesulphonoamido.

May I suggest with similar logic, that with such a compound frequently on the lips, it must inevitably give rise to detectable levels in the blood!

The discussion in earlier years was not so much about 2, 4, 5-T but about the merits or otherwise of volatile and so-called non-volatile formulations. Talking of hormones, romance even blossomed at conferences, and there was a certain lady commonly known as "Ethyl ester". Times have changed.

There was also the time when a paper was presented based on data free observations from an unreplicated field application made by a farmer. Obviously editors have changed — for the better of course. It will be what historians will refer to as the pre-Hartley era.

This society is — and we trust will continue to be — an ideal forum for the pooling and exchanging of information relating to our respective fields of endeavour and interest. It is in the national interest that we continue to be recognised as an integral part of the overall economy of agriculture/horticulture in its widest sense. Governments change and so do some of their policies, and the funding of research both pure and applied is the subject of the moment. This Society is a happy mix of persons involved in both of these aspects, as one is often the precursor to the other. However, if inventive, innovative and speculative research is abandoned in favour of that which is financially rewarding, then this change in direction may have the short term effect of an offer of a takeover by Ron Brierly & Co. Any reduction this change gives rise to in the nation's financial deficit in the short term, must inevitably in the long term give rise to a corresponding deficit in the application of overseas scientific and technological advances New Zealand's economy requires for survival.

Recently, John Scott (NZIAS) was reported as saying there can be a 30% return on investment in agricultural research.

N.Z. has an export market orientated economy, and with known entrepreneurial skills, farmers and growers will develop new cash crops and equipment. Who pays for the development prior to selling, if it eventuates that far? Pity the poor grower of pepinos or babacos who wants an export tolerance set for pesticides.

The publication of the Conference proceedings is available for the benefit of all, at the current subsidised price of \$20. Unfortunately, the future availability of this data in the public domain will be in question, if it can be used to facilitate commercial advantage by non-contributing organisations or competitors.

Although the objectives of the Society remain unchanged, the means of obtaining these objectives are changing.

The Society is strong, it has vast resources in people of wide experience and talent, which will stand it in good stead in the future.

Finally, I am pleased to be part of an executive committee of dedicated volunteers

who give their services, sometimes at the expense of other interests, for the cause of this Society.

I wish to record the invaluable efforts of our Secretary, Alison Popay, who edits, co-ordinates etc the printing and publication of the Proceedings within strict time limitations, as well as having a family.

In addition, the work of Helen Dick as treasurer, especially with the increasing number of publications for sale and the introduction of G.S.T. to everything, is quite onerous, and I sincerely acknowledge that contribution.

ANNUAL REPORT 1986-87

A.J. Popay

The 1986 annual conference was held in Palmerston North, 12-14 August. Between 80-100 people attended most sessions to hear 54 full papers presented. The content and format of research notes was changed this year and 14 of these were presented in an evening poster session. This appeared to be a success with people appreciating the high standard of the posters.

At the Annual General Meeting, Alan Upritchard was elected an Honorary Member and presented with some books in recognition of the enormous contribution his book 'New Zealand Common Weeds in Colour' has made to the Society.

Dr Spencer Hartley was also presented with a book from the Society in appreciation for his work in producing another edition of the Index to Proceedings.

At the AGM some discussion took place on the use of Trade Names in the presentation of papers. It was decided that Trade Names could be mentioned once in the verbal presentation of papers.

Membership of the Waikato, Hawkes Bay, Nelson and Canterbury branches remains stable. Throughout the year these branches organised a number of seminars and field days in their areas.