



PREFACE.

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This volume of memoirs has been prepared at the instigation of the Council to celebrate the 50th year of The Engineering Association of New South Wales. It is with very great satisfaction that upon this the Jubilee of the Association we are able to look forward to a new era of work, in as much as the members have unanimously decided that this body become a foundation society of "The Institution of Engineers, Australia."

A review of 50 years of engineering progress is in itself a great undertaking, but our members can always regard with pride the work done by their Association, both from a scientific as well as from a public viewpoint.

Without detracting in any way from the efforts of the members of the other foundation societies of the Institution of Engineers, Australia, the successful inauguration of the new institution was in a large measure due to the pioneer work carried out by members of our Association, and to the financial help available from the funds at our disposal accruing from the magnificent bequest of the late Sir P. N. Russell.

It is with great pleasure that we are able to say that we still have with us two of the original members of the Association, viz.:—Mr. J. P. Franki, of Mort's Dock and Engineering Co., Ltd., Sydney, and Mr. J. Goldsmith, of Messrs. Walker's, Ltd., Maryborough, Queensland, both of whom have made their mark in the engineering profession of Australia.

The life of the Association has not been an easy one; many times during its history have the Council had to face periods of stress and trouble, but the stern training as engineers always enabled them to smooth out the way until better days dawned. It is fitting to mention in this volume the intense interest evidenced by almost every Council elected to control the affairs of the Association in the developmental training of the young engineer; and the student of to-day has every reason to be grateful for the work done on his behalf by the earlier engineers of the inauguration of the now well established "Institution of Engineers, Australia." Much can be written, but the details attended to here treat mainly upon the work done by our own members, many of whom were untiring in their zeal for the new body, and now that the work is consummated they feel that their reward is indeed great.

It is a difficult matter to single out from the list of membership any particular one who can be said to have influenced the affairs of the Association more than another, but to such men as John Laing, J. F. Fitzmaurice, Henry V. Ahrbecker, Norman Selve, of the earlier members, and James Shirra, Hector Kidd, Russell Sinclair, G. A. Julius, and D. F. J. Harricks, of the more recent members, the Association owes more than can be expressed by mere words for its success during its 50 years of existence.

EDITOR.