

# IRISH FORESTRY

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## *Editorial*

ONE of the problems of a Society like ours is that the members are spread far and wide. The only area where we have any concentration of members is in the Dublin region. This situation tends to lead to various unsatisfactory developments which are, in large part, and in the present organisation, unavoidable — i.e. diminished contact with country members due to a preponderance of those resident in Dublin on the Council, greater concentration of meetings in eastern regions, again due to a weight of members in the east, but resulting in reduced possibilities for participation in our activities by members in more remote areas. The overall effect of this is, naturally enough, to cause reduced interest, and perhaps a slight lethargy among those who find that their chances of participating in Society activities are remote.

We have felt a slowing of pace and want to know more about why this is so. You, our members, collectively and individually will be our advice. To this end we have decided to hold three pulse-feeling regional meetings this winter, in the south, the west, and the north. What we hope from our members is that as many as possible will attend and comment frankly on their feelings towards the Society and, having given the matter some serious thought, will also make suggestions for changes or improvements that might be made. We also hope that our members will bring as many non-members as possible to hear from them their views.

The more members we have the more the Society can do, and for a greater number. But we do need all our members — you — to be our physiqians and to feel this pulse we think may be flagging. We need you to note the symptoms, pinpoint the causes and, above all, chip in. We have some ideas which should help to regenerate our Society, particularly in the areas more remote from Dublin.

These meetings will follow three interesting papers to be read at Cahir on February 5th, at Strabane on February 17th and at Castlebar on March 5th. Full participation by all members who can possibly attend (accompanied by friends who may have hidden interests in our Society) will help not only in better reorganisation of the Society but will also arouse greater dedication in your Council who, after all, do appreciate a helping hand.