

IRISH FORESTRY

Vol. 33

1976

No. 1

Editorial

THE SPIRIT OF MEMBERSHIP

WE had long been under the impression that the readership of this journal was of a similar order to that generally attributed to the average scientific paper, that is, two, the author and one other, and are but slightly encouraged by the response to our questionnaire, reported on page 00; encouraged, because so many members took the trouble to reply to the questionnaire, and because among those who replied there were none who indicated that we were totally wasting our time; but no more than slightly, because the number of respondents formed less than one-tenth of our membership. Where are the nine?

We have commented before on the habit of passive membership, members whose purpose is to receive rather than contribute. Societies like this one do not run themselves, they require the devotion of considerable personal time, which might quite easily be devoted to more congenial pursuits. Nor is a journal such as this produced out of thin air, nor does it edit itself. Members are now quite active in attending study tours and midweek day tours, and that is a good thing, it is mainly why the society is there. And in recent years there has been a welcome upswing in the numbers voting in elections to Council. But when it comes to *doing* something, from undertaking the work of an Office in the Society, down to spending a short time filling in a questionnaire, we appear to be very reluctant to become involved.

The Society may survive with such a spirit among its members, but it will not thrive.