

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

The theme of this year's symposium, "Broadleaves in Irish Forestry", brings to my mind once again, the restrictive attitude adopted by the Society to this important event in its calendar. As usual, attendance at the symposium is confined to members of the Society. It is not advertised and goes unreported in the national press. I find it difficult to reconcile this introverted policy with Article 11 of the Society's constitution which states

"The object of the Society shall be to advance and spread in Ireland the knowledge of forestry in all its aspects."

The symposium represents a valuable opportunity for us to do this, with forestry now claiming media attention and, by good fortune this year, a theme which would certainly catch the imagination of many who are interested in the countryside and its development.

Both the State and private sectors have been criticised for the low level of planting of broadleaved species. It would indeed have been a wise policy to let the public see the Society take a positive and constructive view of their place in Irish forestry.

This opportunity has been lost but I would implore the incoming Council to abandon reactionary policies. The Society should now come out and vigorously promote the cause of Irish forestry. What matter if we provoke controversy. This can only stimulate valuable discussion, bring in new ideas and in time, expand and develop our vision and the public's perception of forestry on this island.

Dr. E. P. Farrell.