

Institute of Aeronautical Engineers.

JOURNAL

Editorial.

ON March 29th a Special General Meeting of the Institution was held, and, as the majority of members are aware, the resolution to amalgamate with the Royal Aeronautical Society on the terms of the Beharrell report, was unanimously adopted

A similar resolution was, we understand, passed at the General Meeting of the Royal Aeronautical Society, but with this proviso, that the Council of the Society should obtain the views of those of their members who were unable to be present at the General Meeting, before putting the proposals into operation. We understand that there is no doubt whatever about the result of this referendum so we must regard the amalgamation as *fait au complit*

There is no question whatever that the amalgamation has certain distinct advantages. It is, of course, obvious to everyone that one representative body is in a much more advantageous position as regards prestige, finance, and general activities, than are two separate bodies which may at some time or other be inclined to overlap. On the other hand, we have the advocate of the policy that "competition is good for trade." This as a rule is a very good maxim, but we are not certain that we quite agree that such is the case when two scientific bodies are concerned, as there is bound to be a certain amount of overlapping, and like the Service Departments, when in peace time they have not got a common enemy to fight, they are inclined to spend quite a lot of time fighting one another.

There is one point which we would stress upon our members, it is this. The amalgamation with the Royal Aeronautical Society, if, as we hope and believe it will be, is to be a success, must be an amalgamation in *spirit* as well as in word. The members of the Institution have a great opportunity before them to exercise very considerable influence on the activities of the amalgamated society, and it is hoped they will take full advantage of this and when Council elections take place, will see that those who have served the Institution faithfully in the past, are nominated and elected.