

Biennial General Meeting, 21 November 1969SECRETARY'S REPORT

Since the last Biennial General Meeting which was held on 21 November 1969 the Executive has met on 9 occasions to conduct the business of the Society. At these meetings the constitutional requirement of a quorum of 7 Executive members was always met. At all except one of these meetings Executive members from Sydney were present.

Membership of the Society has steadily increased in the four years of its existence. The total membership at the end of each year was as follows:-

1968	-	175	members
1969	-	181	"
1970	-	189	"
1971	-	205	"

There is still much room for growth, but continued expansion is confidently predicted for the years to come. We can be proud of the high quality of our members who represent all facets, both practical and theoretical, of the criminal justice systems in all Australian states and in New Zealand. We also have many overseas members.

One aspect of the composition of the membership of the Society, however, is causing continuing concern and that is the fact that over 50% of our members reside in Victoria. In an effort to correct this imbalance the Executive has agreed in principle to shifting the Secretariat of the Society from Melbourne to Sydney. This, of course, is subject to the approval of this meeting.

The major activity of the Society over the past two years has continued to be the publication of the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology. Fifteen numbers of this journal have been published to date, and these have received wide recognition and acclaim. This achievement is, of course, a reflection of the enthusiasm and industry of the editor, Dr. Allen Bartholomew. He has been assisted by many people in the arduous task of producing a journal every three months, and the leading helpers have been Mr. Greg Woods and Mr. Paul Ward from Sydney and Mrs. Deidre Greig from Melbourne. The printers of the journal, Southdown Press, have continued to be most co-operative in all our dealings with them.

A further activity of the Society in the past two years has been the establishment of a fund which will be used to arrange lectures and to conduct other activities in honour of the memory of our foundation President, The Honourable Sir John Barry, who died just over two years ago. An appeal for this purpose raised \$8,000.00, and very recently a committee of the Council of the University of Melbourne was appointed to administer this fund. This committee is made up mainly of members of the Society, and it is hoped that the first Barry Memorial Lecture will be held some time in 1972.

Victorian members of the Society have also had the opportunity to attend occasional meetings and other functions arranged by an activities committee, the convenor of which has been Mrs. Gwen Graves.

The Society has enthusiastically maintained its membership of the Australian Crime Prevention, Correction and After-care Council, and hence members of the Society are able to attend the biennial conferences of the Council. The most recent one, which was held in Brisbane in August of this year was attended by many members of the Society. The Society is currently considering seeking affiliation with ANZAAS (The Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science) and this, if achieved, will provide further activities in which members could participate.

At a less public level the Executive of the Society has maintained contact, mainly through correspondence, with a succession of Commonwealth Attorneys'-General. The purpose of this has mainly been to express our views on the Criminology Research Act of 1971.

It is my belief that the Society having reached its fourth birthday is now passed the stage of infancy and toddlerhood, and is now moving into a new phase of development which will no doubt be marked by lusty growth and vigorous activity. I am honoured to have been able to play some small part in its development so far.

In closing this report I must pay the warmest possible tribute to our retiring President, Professor Sir George Paton. Despite his many commitments and duties elsewhere Sir George has been present at every Executive meeting and every function of the Society. He has worked tirelessly in the interests of the Society, for example, when we were conducting the Barry Memorial Appeal he did not flinch from the task of signing literally hundreds of letters by hand. The leadership of the Society by Sir George over the past two years has been an inspiration to us all, and we are deeply in his debt.

David Biles

Hon. Secretary