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Editorial

The October-December, 1949, Journal was the largest one which the Association has ever produced, and it is a fitting climax to the editorial activities of B. H. ARKELL, who has now relinquished the job of Editor. Like a previous Honorary Secretary he has now left for South Africa.

Very few of the Members of the Association will realize that the original conception of the Association was "Basil's" and that he was also the first Honorary Secretary of the Association, and has been the Editor of the Journal since its inception as well as being a Member of the Council until his departure.

Educated at Dulwich College, Basil started training to be an actuary, gave this up to take up a short service commission just before the war, and in late 1939 spent some time in hospital as a result of a crash while in a Coastal Command squadron. Having recovered from his injuries, he organized a Ship Recognition Unit and in 1943 was posted to 529 Squadron at Halton. He then went to the United States to fly helicopters and returned in early 1945 to found the Helicopter Instructional Flight at Andover.

After leaving the R.A.F. he became a helicopter test pilot with the Fairey Aviation Company and was responsible for the prototype tests on the Gyrodyne, in which he gained the then helicopter speed record. He returned to America for a short private tour of the helicopter industry after leaving Fairey's, and in August, 1949, joined the Cierva Autogiro Company as a free-lance pilot, assisting in the test flying of the Skeeter and the Air Horse.

His latest move was to South Africa on the 17th February, 1950, and with him he took the best wishes of all who know him. The consistently high standard achieved by the Journal during his period of office as Editor is one of which he can justly be proud and which his successor will find difficult to maintain. Good luck, "Bas."

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DR. W. E. RIPPER, F.R.E.S., who was to have delivered a Lecture on "PEST CONTROL WITH REFERENCE TO THE HELICOPTER" at a Meeting of The Helicopter Association of Great Britain on 28th January, 1950, was unfortunately delayed in the Sudan. To take its place a General Discussion on the subject was arranged by the Council of the Association and is reported in this number under the heading "PEST CONTROL AND THE HELICOPTER."

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It is with great regret that we hear of the death of one of America's leading rotary wing engineers, DR. ALEXANDER KLEMIN, President of the American Helicopter Society and Founder Member of the Association. Apart from his articles in the "Aero Digest," of which he was Technical Editor, his many publications will be familiar to most members.

It is hoped to include an obituary in our next issue.