a family of baboons clambered all over the car. One was indeed able to enjoy all the thrills of the chase without the necessity of indulging in any killing!

The Secretary of the South African Council, Mr. Andrew Aitken, and Mrs. Aitken, accommodated me as their guest in their home at Bryanston, near Johannesburg, throughout my stay, and I am most grateful to them for their generous hospitality and warm welcome. I was thus afforded the opportunity of having long talks with Mr. Aitken about the Institution's future plans with special reference to development in South Africa.

The South African Council gave a farewell dinner for me at which I was presented with a handsome silver salver as a memento of my visit.

When the time came for my departure from Jan Smuts Airport at the end of my mission, I had the strong feeling that this journey has been well worthwhile; it enabled me to forge links between the Headquarters of the Institution and many members in distant parts of the world, which I am quite certain will be for the eventual benefit of the Institution. I am more than ever convinced that the future holds infinite possibilities for the Institution throughout the world. A world-wide extension of the Institution's membership would not only contribute to the establishment of a new bond of friendship between Great Britain and other countries, but it would also enable the Institution to spread far and wide the principles of production engineering and industrial economy, which are the very essence of its being.

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**Correspondence**

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**Batch Production**

Most of British industry is operated on a batch production basis but the amount of knowledge of the principles behind batch production is small compared to the flow or mass production situation. Under the sponsorship of D.S.I.R. and S.A.T.R.A. a research project has recently been initiated in the Department of Engineering Production, University of Birmingham, to investigate the basic principles of the economy, psychology and control of batch production. The initial stages of this work involve some extensive surveys of the present situation in a number of factories and in different industries. Parallel with this it is necessary to conduct a wide survey and analysis of the control methods used in batch production factories and it is for this latter work that we would like to enlist the help of members of The Institution of Production Engineers.

We have prepared a questionnaire covering the functions normally included under production controllers and would appreciate a large number of firms to volunteer to fill this in for us. We also require a copy of each form used for production control. In return for this information we would, if the firm so wished, eventually supply them with an analysis of their form utilisation, indicating where overlapping or ambiguities occurred, together with a summary report on the control situation throughout the industry. All the information supplied would, of course, be kept as confidential and would not be identifiable to individuals or firms in the reports.

*From: Cecil F. Hurst, M.I.Prod.E.*

Deputy Chairman and Technical Director,  
Samuel Osborn & Co. Ltd., Sheffield.

**The Management Burden**

I should like to congratulate the Editor on the publication of the Fifth Elbourne Memorial Lecture given by Harold Wilmot, C.B.E., entitled "The Management Burden".

It is to be hoped that this Paper will be widely read and absorbed, as the principles Mr. Wilmot has laid down can be of the utmost value, particularly to the young men who are in training and are being developed for the management function.

Many of the principles laid down by Mr. Wilmot have been applied in this Company for many years and have proved to be the basis of good relationships within the organisation.

It has been very pleasing to see the subject of management dealt with so excellently in this Paper.