

Announcements

SILVER MEDAL 1979

KEN JAMES

IN AWARDING its Silver Medal to Ken James, the Society acknowledges the very considerable contributions he has made to Operational Research in general, to the Society and to the development of O.R. in the Government Sector.

Yet despite these activities, which spanned many years, it is indicative of his capacity to live life to the full that these were preceded by several years in pure science research within the defence field—a consequence of his original training as a chemist. Stemming from this work, and from the need to embed such research development within wider systems studies, Mr James was drawn into the assessment programmes so typical of much early O.R. activity. Though these studies were mostly tactical in nature, Mr James early recognised the potential for using such methods in more strategic decision making, and his further work within the defence field following World War Two gave him the opportunity to develop these ideas and to see the results of his work having a real influence on matters of import. Those familiar with his more recent O.R. activities will not be surprised that one of the most important characteristics of this work in the defence area was the need to accommodate frequently changing objectives and assumptions.

It was at this time, as Director of the Army O.R. Establishment (now within DOAE), that Mr James became more aware of the desirability of using similar methods in analysing the complex problems of Central Government. Though there were several reputable O.R. groups within individual Government Departments, it was largely through his initiatives that O.R. became influential in central decision making processes, and the work within the O & M Division of the Treasury, and later in the Civil Service Department, was greatly influenced by his vision, energy and ability.

Though he officially retired in 1977, after a career which would have left many of us well content, he has typically now launched himself into manufacturing industry and is as busy as ever. But it is, of course, for his work within the Government sector that the Society awards him its Silver Medal. We are greatly in his debt for his part in establishing Government O.R. on so secure a basis, and for its rapid development over the last decade, and we are proud to include Ken James on our most distinguished Roll of Honour.

M. G. SIMPSON

NATO SYSTEMS SCIENCE COMPETITION 1978

THE *Society* would like to congratulate Martyn Sloman on winning second prize in the 1978 NATO Systems Science Competition for his paper "How operational gaming can help with the introduction of a new technology", *Opl Res. Q.* **28**, 781–793 (1977).