

TO JOIN OR NOT TO JOIN?

BY

J. E. SLOGGETT, B.Sc., C.ENG., F.I.MAR.E., F.R.I.N.A., F.I.C.S.,
C.DIP. A.F.

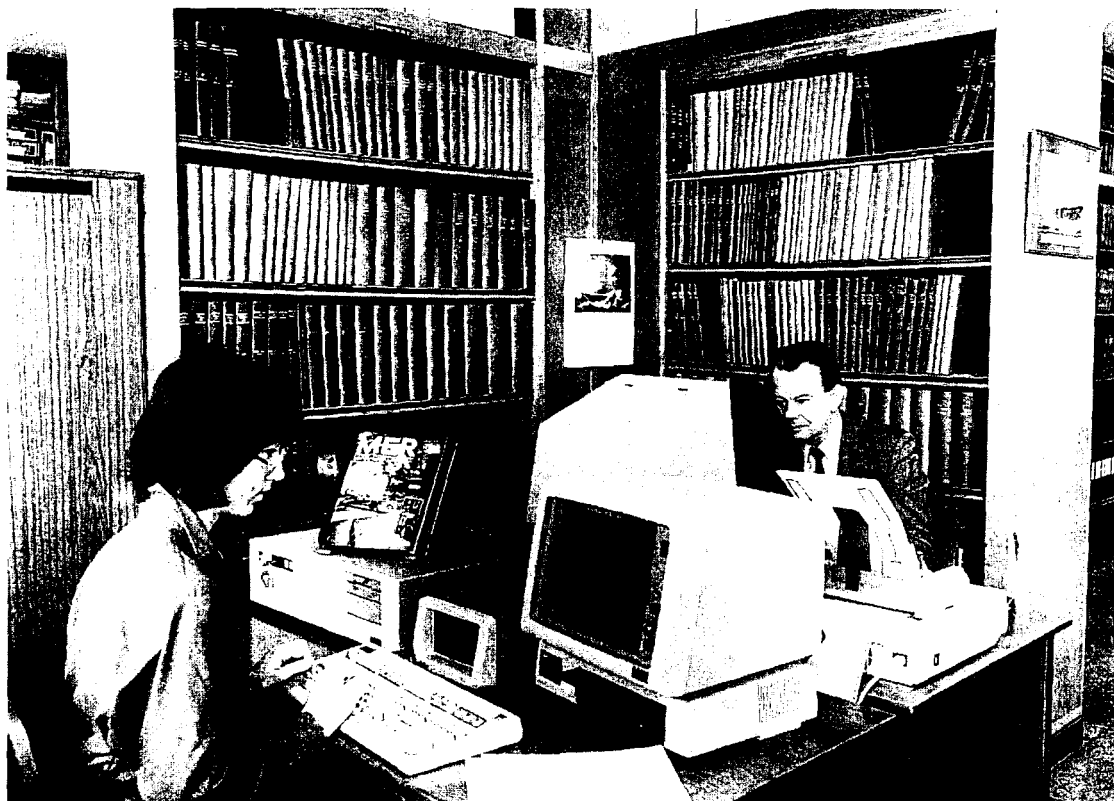
(Secretary, The Institute of Marine Engineers)

With the high standards of skills training provided by the Royal Navy, the serving engineer officer or artificer must wonder whether there is any point in belonging to a Chartered Engineering Institution.

The Institute of Marine Engineers has no doubt about the answer. It was founded in 1889 to provide a forum for the dissemination of knowledge and experience, to enable those in pursuit of engineering excellence to advance their understanding of new developments as they emerge.

At that time, too, seagoing engineers were becoming increasingly conscious that the corporate professional status appropriate to their experience and responsibility was often denied them by their employers, both military and civilian, by their professional colleagues ashore and by their seagoing colleagues in other departments. In those early days the Institute was a leading force in overcoming prejudice and in establishing, particularly in the Royal Navy, equality of status of Engineers with that of other departments, and their introduction into the officer class.

Today, by holding technical meetings and conferences, through its publications, and through an extensive library and information database, the Institute is able to offer naval engineers an unparalleled service to develop and update their skills, combining the science and technology necessary for the



THROUGH ITS MARINE INFORMATION CENTRE, THE INSTITUTE OF MARINE ENGINEERS OFFERS ITS MEMBERS A COMPREHENSIVE LIBRARY AND INFORMATION DATABASE

maintenance and management of the propulsion plant, auxiliary machinery, armaments, communications and systems engineering technology involved in maintaining a naval vessel at the peak of its efficiency. Furthermore, as an international institution, the largest in its field in the world, it is in an unrivalled position to foster the spread of such knowledge.

The relevance of such a service reaches beyond the confines of the seagoing career—an important consideration when so many Royal Navy personnel embark on second careers ashore. The Institute serves the marine engineer employed not only in the maritime industries and ship management, but in machinery surveying, consultancy, plant engineering, hospital engineering, and many other fields where his versatile skills can be deployed.

It serves another need: the advancement of the professional status of its members. It is nominated by the Engineering Council (EC) as a body that can designate for inclusion in the EC's Register those of its members who are assessed by it as meeting the required standards for the grades of Chartered Engineer, Incorporated Engineer and Engineering Technician—titles which have gained wide recognition not only in the UK but in Europe, and indeed worldwide. It is also authorized by the EC to accredit academic courses, industrial training programmes and schemes for professional experience for all three grades. This is a distinction currently shared by one other engineering institution only. Many RN courses, etc., have been accredited by the Institute.

So membership of The Institute of Marine Engineers provides the key not only to greater knowledge and understanding of the marine engineering disciplines, but also to the professional status that enables such knowledge effectively to be put into practice.

For more information on the Institute and its membership grades, write to: Manager—Professional Affairs, The Institute of Marine Engineers, The Memorial Building, 76 Mark Lane, London EC3R 7JN.