



The Lectern

MR LEVINE'S GIFT

AT the Meeting of the Institute held on 22 October 1945, the President (Mr R. C. Simmonds) announced that the Lectern which Mr Abraham Levine had arranged to present to the Institute had been received. This issue of the *Journal* contains a photograph of the Lectern.

The President said:

'This Lectern is a gift to the Institute from Mr Levine, our President from 1928 to 1930, whose work for, and interest in, the welfare of the Institute are known to so many and are on record for us all.

'When, some years ago—the delay in execution is not the fault of the donor—Mr Levine expressed to the Council his wish to present the Lectern, he had in mind that it would be used in the Old Hall of Staple Inn, especially by authors when submitting papers to the Institute. Mr Levine was anxious, therefore, that the design of the Lectern should be in harmony with that of the lovely Council Table given to the Institute by his friend and predecessor, the late Mr W. P. Phelps. Most fortunately it was found possible to prepare the necessary sketch before the loss of our Hall, and the Lectern incorporates not merely the woosack emblem of Staple Inn, but also in its shaft a graceful reference to the Council Table, which, unhappily, has been virtually destroyed. The Institute is indeed grateful to Mr Levine, who, I am sorry to say, is unable to be with us to-night to receive in person an expression of our heartfelt acknowledgment of his kindness. Those of you who have the privilege of knowing Mrs Levine and who, therefore, are aware of her taste, will not be surprised when I add that she took great interest in the design; we are indebted to her in no small measure for the successful way in which Mr Levine has achieved his purpose of enriching the Institute.

'The Old Hall is no more—our new home is not yet even in prospect—but when it comes into being, this Lectern will have an honoured place and will be a fitting link with the Hall in which it can never stand.'

Messrs Joseph, the architects, state that the Lectern was designed to be in harmony with the architectural period of the Hall of Staple Inn, now so tragically lost, the motif being taken from the supports of the Council Table. The design of the upper part of the shaft of the Lectern is adapted from the carving of these supports, and the motif is repeated in the stand below the tapering shaft. The woosack, the emblem of the Inn, is introduced into the carving at each side of the book-rest, and in bas-relief at the back in order that it may be seen from the body of the meeting.

A plate bearing the inscription 'The Gift of A. Levine, President 1928-30' is being affixed to the Lectern.