

In the Newspaper Room nearly nine hundred different newspapers are received and filed. They are from all parts of the world and are suitably displayed for the use of the members and their guests.

The Information Bureau deals with enquiries made in person or by letter from its members. It distributes matter which is thought to be of interest and obtains and forwards on request when possible reports of an official or semi-official character, as well as publications of Chambers of Commerce, Boards of Trade, Reports of Commissions and other reports and returns of a like character.

Frequent evening meetings are held. The papers read are often illustrated by lantern slides. Scientific enquiry is encouraged and the Gold Medal of the Institute, accompanied by a money grant, is offered annually for the best research monograph on some subject selected from time to time. The theme for the current year has been selected with reference to the immediate phase of the Imperial movement and is stated as follows.

"The applicability of the dictum that "A democracy cannot manage an Empire" (Thucydides, Bk.iii., ch. 37, Jowett's translation) to the present conditions and future problems of the British Empire, particularly the question of the future of India."

Prizes for essays on various subjects are offered from time to time, especially to young men and women