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Editorial

Defence of India & A. R. P. The moving question at the present stage is "What is our duty with regard to the defence of India?" To the majority of our members, who are Indians, the answer to the question is somewhat complicated by conflicting considerations regarding the control of defensive operations and the answer tends to become a challenge or appeal from one nation to another. Ordinarily, defence is the concern of the military authorities, and the civil population has no exertion to make other than to supply the funds for the equipment and movement of the defence forces, and Engineers, who are not in military service, have no defence problems to solve. But now things are different as the war has been brought by aircraft to the very doors of civilians and it has become necessary for engineers, whether Indians or not, to remain always on the alert to cope with new and unexpected problems.

Air Raid Precaution. The dangers of destruction by bombs dropped from enemy aircraft have moved us all into an effort at maintaining some form of "A. R. P." measure—adequate or otherwise, and it behoves us, as engineers, to take good note as to what A.R.P. measures would be the most suitable for any particular locality, and not to be deluded by matter of

form and show into taking measures that proper consideration would show to be faulty under the local circumstances.

An interesting paper on this subject, entitled, " Air Raid Precaution with special reference to Calcutta " was read by Mr. S. Bandopadhyaya (our Vice-President), Deputy Engineer, Calcutta Improvement Trust, before the Association of Engineers at its Annual general meeting on the 3rd. March 1942. The paper is published in this issue.

We are not called upon to take part in the prevention of enemy aircraft from reaching our locality. For that is a matter for the Airforce fighters and anti-aircraft gunners. But as in any football game, however good may be the team, some player may slip through to the goal or send the ball out wide, so, as spectators we must be on our guard and keep away from the line of play, and, when the ball comes at us, take shelter where we can. These shelters it must be our business to design well and keep ready for every emergency.