

TO OUR READERS

To the best of our recollection we have never before started a 'To our readers' with a photograph. The people in it need little introduction: In the middle we see Bob Portielje, AMI's president, linking two great ladies of the AMI community, Fahmida Malik and Renilde Montessori. We thought it nicely symbolized the present situation at AMI, with one secretary of the Association going out and the other coming in and with the president as the cementing factor.



At the informal 'get-together' after the Annual General Meeting in April, Fahmida's integrity and loyalty were acknowledged in the form of moving speeches and presents. By her unstinted efforts in maintaining and furthering the ideas and principles of Maria Montessori, Fahmida has made a valuable contribution to AMI's history. This has been borne out by the great many letters of appreciation she has received in recent months from the AMI community worldwide. While we are sad to see her go, her experience and understanding of Montessori pedagogy will not be lost to us as she will remain a member of the Pedagogical Committee and the AMI Board.

With Renilde Montessori, AMI is most fortunate to have a new secretary who brings with her practical experience in the field, as well as an indelible link with Maria Montessori - an invaluable combination. We look forward to having her with us and benefiting from her knowledge as well as her wit, energy and inspiring personality. Renilde will join us on September 1 and we should like to take this opportunity to say: "Welcome on board!"

This issue of *Communications* contains, as usual, the reports presented to the Annual General Meeting. A noticeable phenomenon is that, while some faithfully submit reports each year, others tend to surprise us every now and then by sharing an account of their activities with us. You will find the minutes of the Annual General Meeting, including the reports from the various committees, on p. 3ff.

On a pedagogical note, we are pleased to publish the lecture on "Sensitive Periods" which Connie Corbett gave to the meeting of Directors of Training which was held in Amsterdam in December, 1992. This is a topic which has something for everybody. We hope to bring you more of the lectures from that meeting in future issues.

As we go to print, summer is just awakening. By the time you read this, we hope that summer will be a memory of pleasant and relaxing days. Also, while many of you are already part-way through your school or college year, for many more the new academic year is just beginning. We wish you all a fruitful and satisfying one.