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incorporating the Transactions of the
BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY
EDITORIAL

WITH this issue the editor hands over the task of superintending the production of the *Baptist Quarterly* to his successor, the Rev. W. Morris West, D.Theol., one of our younger scholars in the field of Church History, who is a tutor at Regent's Park, College, Oxford. Dr. West will enjoy the confidence and good wishes of all as he undertakes, as from the January issue, the editorship of a journal which, so far, has been unique in the periodical literature of the Baptists of the world.

Moreover he will succeed to the task in a year particularly significant for the Society of which this is the official journal. For 1958 will be the jubilee year of the Baptist Historical Society; a year which, one hopes, will be marked by denominational recognition of the invaluable services of the Society and its journal and by the reception of an influx of new members and readers.

For students of Baptist history, doctrine and usage, the files of the *Quarterly* and its predecessor, the *Transactions*, constitute a veritable treasure-store of information. While, during the past few years, it has been gratifying to note how in Britain and other parts of the world its prestige has been gradually rising. For instance, the American Theological Library Association has included the *Quarterly* alongside thirty of the world's leading theological journals in the *Index to Religious Periodical Literature* which the American Library Association distributes on its behalf. That younger Baptist scholars will increasingly take advantage of the opportunities it

affords for publication of their work, that the prestige of the *Baptist Quarterly* will continue to mount and that its importance and significance will be growingly recognised is our confident hope as, with many thanks to those who have assisted in the past and to the correspondents who have written in kindly terms, we now hand over, with every good wish, the charge of this journal to our able and scholarly successor.

* * *

Some account of Charles-Marie de Veil, whose spiritual odyssey led him from Judaism via Catholicism and then Anglicanism to the adoption of Baptist views, appeared (the work of W. T. Whitley and Wilfred S. Samuel) in the pages of the *Baptist Quarterly* in 1930 and 1937. Having gained a considerable reputation as a writer on Biblical themes, he died a Baptist Minister in London in 1681. The family from which he sprang was—and is—a remarkable one. It is one of the few Jewish families which can trace back their ancestry over six centuries, while in both its Jewish and Christian branches it has spread into many countries and given to the world some extraordinary men. The story of this notable line of Jews and Christians has recently been told by Mr. Ernest B. Weill of New York in a sumptuously produced volume entitled, *Weil—De Veil; A Genealogy, 1360-1956*, privately printed in an edition of only 200 copies, illustrated with engravings and photographs and containing a genealogical chart of the Weil family. Thanks to the generosity of Mr. Weill, a copy of this handsome and valuable book has been presented to us. It will be placed in the library of the Historical Society for the benefit of future students. Among the generations of rabbis, priests, teachers, ministers, writers and musicians in the De Veil line the Baptist, Charles-Marie—one of three brothers who founded the Christian branches of the family—was by no means the least notable.

* * *

On a day in January, 1807, one Jonathan Davies entered the newly founded Baptist Academy at Abergavenny to become its first student. During the hundred and fifty years that have since elapsed Baptist ministerial education in Wales has passed through many stages of development. In a timely and splendidly written book, *The South Wales Baptist College* (obtainable from the College, 7s. 6d.), the Rev. D. M. Himbury has described with considerable skill the progress of what is now known as the South Wales Baptist College from Abergavenny, via Pontypool, to its present location in Cardiff, where the author is tutor in Church History. Not the least interesting and valuable features of his work are the sketches he has drawn of successive Principals; among them Micah Thomas, Thomas Thomas, William Edwards and Thomas Phillips. We are shown the College judiciously adapting itself to changing times,

conditions and needs, moving to its Cardiff home in 1893, being gradually integrated into the University of Wales and becoming a School of Theology of Cardiff University College, and reverting in 1953 to the advantages of residential status. Mr. Himbury does not overlook the part played by the large band of lay as well as ministerial helpers whose services have meant so much. While the primary aim has ever been to "provide a true apostolic ministry for the churches of the Baptist Denomination and to the world outside the Church," one cannot read these pages without noting how strong an academic tradition has developed and how this concern for a learned as well as a godly ministry has resulted in the sending forth of many men distinguished by their scholarly attainments. Typical of these are Cardiff's first B.U. Scholar, M. E. Aubrey and, more recently, three students in the same year, two of whom gained first-class honours in Hebrew, the other proceeding to a continental university to work for his doctorate. In almost every part of the world as well as in the thick of the battle for the soul of industrialised Wales men of Cardiff have faithfully and effectively served the Kingdom of God. The story of the College could hardly have been better told than by the skilled and scholarly pen of the author of this quite excellent history. Between 1807 and 1957 Wales has been transformed from a pastoral to an industrialised society; in 1807 students had to be taught how to preach in English, whereas today some have to be taught how to preach in their own native Welsh; Micah Thomas's students were excluded from the universities, while today the curriculum is designed to meet the high standards of the University with which the College is intimately associated. These are but few of the changes which have been successively weathered. As the College passes its 150th milestone it is to be congratulated upon its meritorious past and carries with it—under its new Principal, Rev. J. Ithel Jones—the good wishes of a multitude of friends who are confident it will, with equal success and distinction, meet the changes and challenges of the future.

Correction. "John Howard Shakespeare, 1857-1928," *Baptist Quarterly*, Vol. XVII, No. 3, p. 107, line 33 should read: "His driving power was immense. . . ."