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The BAPTIST QUARTERLY

The Journal of the Baptist Historical Society

VOLUME XX

JANUARY, 1964

No. 5

The not infrequent news of casualties among publications of various kinds, from periodicals to national dailies makes us thankful that our journal continues on its way, fulfilling its specialized responsibility to denominational studies and thereby, also, to Christian thought in general. The contents of the four issues which appeared in 1963 are evidence of valuable material which obtains publicity in these pages, much of which, for various reasons, would find no other medium of publication if the *Quarterly* did not exist. In maintaining this journal, therefore, members of the Society are rendering an important service and providing an important facility. From this encouraging statement of fact it may seem a downward step to move to the sordid subject of finance but here, as in so many sections of our denominational life, finance exercises a crucial influence. That our journal fulfils a vital function is beyond doubt but others of which that was also true have gone defunct and some have slimmed beyond recognition, greatly reducing their usefulness. To keep pace with increasing costs means a constant effort to extend the list of members, a patient and persistent advocacy in which the aid of our existing members is much needed. Ahead of us, in 1968, is the diamond jubilee of the Society and we hope to celebrate this in one or two special ways. It would be a great thing if between now and then we could double our membership and thus undergird and secure our position financially. This is not an impossible target, an average of one new member each in the next five years. Let us try together to get off to a good start in 1964.

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One of the Society's functions is to serve as a clearing house of information of various kinds relative to our special field of interest. We shall always welcome notes for the *Quarterly* such as those on pp. 226-228 for it is important that the whereabouts of source materials or accessible microfilms should be publicised. Another service we would like to fulfil is that of collating information on Baptist research work in progress. A number of people are so engaged, some in universities, some privately, and it is unfortunate to say the least if overlapping occurs because one student (or his supervisor) does not know that another is already covering much the same ground. We cannot prevent this happening but we might be able to provide the means whereby it could be prevented. The answer may be in the appointment of a research secretary and Dr. B. R. White is looking into this to see what would be involved. Anyone who knows of Baptist research in progress, or of completed theses and their whereabouts, is asked to get in touch with Dr. White at Regent Park College, Oxford. And may we urge that whenever research reaches the stage of being written up, whether for a university thesis or not, one copy ought to be lodged in our library, now amalgamated with that at 4, Southampton Row, W.C.1.

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We regret that owing to a mistake at the printers, and that due to the difficulties of the holiday season, one stage of the proof-reading for the October issue was omitted. Fortunately the errors were few and none were serious: on p. 153, line 11, read *περιποιησις*; on p. 158, 6 lines from bottom, read *ἀγιος*; on p. 156 inverted commas at the beginning of the Bethune-Baker quotation have gone astray, and on p. 163 a useful comma needs replacing after the word "initiative", 7 lines from the top. To mention these corrections is to be reminded of the high quality of service which our printers normally give us and we take the opportunity to thank them for it.

The Annual General Meeting of the Historical Society

will be held on MONDAY, 27TH APRIL, at 4.30 p.m.

in the INSTITUTE HALL OF WESTMINSTER CHAPEL

Tea will precede the meeting.