

# Editorial.

## NEW MEMBERS.

The following have recently joined the Baptist Historical Society :

Baptist Theological College of Scotland.	Clr. J. N. Hulme.
Rev. Emlyn Davies, B.A., B.D., B.Litt.	Rev. L. G. Webb.

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## ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS.

It will be a real convenience if unpaid membership subscriptions for 1941 can be remitted forthwith (*Treasurer*, Mr. A. H. Calder, 90, Jermyn Street, S.W.1). Printing and other expenses have increased materially, and, for the *Baptist Quarterly* to be maintained at its present level, we need both the support of present members, and an influx of new members.

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## REGENT'S PARK COLLEGE.

We heartily congratulate the Rev. R. L. Child, B.D., B.Litt., of Broadmead, on his appointment to the Principalship as from the retirement of Dr. Wheeler Robinson in 1942. At a later date we shall have the opportunity of printing something concerning the retiring Principal, but it may be said now that posterity will give the past two decades an outstanding place in Regent's long history. They have been singularly difficult years, involving the removal from London, the erection of the Oxford buildings, and the inauguration of the new era. However many and varied the difficulties, Dr. Robinson never lowered his ideals or wavered in his determination to have the best.

Mr. Child enters a notable succession—William Newman, Joseph Angus, George Pearce Gould, Henry Wheeler Robinson, to mention four of the distinguished Principals, and to this list he will add lustre. A great opportunity faces him, for surely never was there more urgent need of prophets capable of discerning the times and speaking the message of God with no uncertain sound.

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## NEW TESTAMENT SCHOLARSHIP.

Where are our Baptist New Testament scholars? It is an open secret that the Committee appointed two years ago to nominate the Senior Tutor of Regent's, and the Committee appointed early this year to nominate the Principal, searched the ranks of our ministry in vain. We have a galaxy of Old Testament scholars, the two Robinsons, H. H. Rowley, J. N.

Schofield, G. Henton Davies, L. H. Brockington, and others. How is it that our Colleges—five in England, two in Wales, and one in Scotland—have apparently failed to produce even one New Testament scholar of equal rank? Surely this demands the earnest consideration of those responsible for collegiate studies, or perhaps it is a matter for the Baptist Union Scholarships Committee, or the not overworked United Collegiate Board.

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## REUNION.

Reunion advocacy is again to the fore. *An Appeal for Free Church Union* has been issued by representatives of the various Free Churches, the Baptist signatories being sixteen ministers and one layman; coincidentally, the Rev. Hugh Martin has published the volume on *Christian Reunion*, reviewed later on p. 460; and a resolution based on the *Appeal* will be submitted to the forthcoming meeting of the Federal Free Church Council. The signatories to the *Appeal*, in speaking of "a real and visible union" and a "United Free Church," evidently desire, not a Federation of the Free Churches, but one uniform, all-embracing, Free Church. Is a huge, uniform, United Free Church desirable? Would not a Federation of denominations (to some extent we have this in the Federal Free Church Council) in which the local churches adopted the title "United Free Church," but remained associated with their own Unions and Conferences be preferable?

An insurance illustration may have a lesson for us. Years ago it was the practice, when one Company took over another, or two Companies amalgamated, for the smaller to disappear and cease to be known to the public. Experience, however, showed the unwisdom of this. Something vital of the appeal, the personality, the goodwill, of the absorbed Company was lost. A different method was therefore adopted. Now the Companies federate or become allied with one another, as, for example, the Commercial Union group, which includes the British, General, Ocean, Palatine, Union and others. Each company retains its own individuality, and makes its own appeal to the public; but, as between the Companies, co-operation replaces wasteful competition, redundant offices are eliminated, and the business of one member of the group is respected by the other members.

Another aspect is worthy of consideration. Have the seventeen signatories given any thought to the more practical and pressing problem of the union of Baptists? And if they desire something to do that is practical, they might apply themselves to the problem of overlapping Baptist Churches.