

Editorial.

THE Baptist Historical Society congratulates Dr. Dakin on his well-deserved appointment to the Principalship of Bristol College. He is a man who unites a vital evangelical experience and message with modern scholarship on the one hand, and a vision of social applications on the other. He is young enough to make the leadership of the college his life-work, and he is old enough to have had a sufficiently varied experience of the pastorate. His gifts as a platform speaker are known to all; those personal qualities which his friends know are such as to win the confidence and esteem of young men at their most formative period. Altogether, it is an ideal appointment, and the only fly in the ointment for us is that Dr. Dakin feels it necessary to resign his work as joint-editor of *The Baptist Quarterly*. It will therefore be necessary for us to elect his successor at the Annual Meeting to be held at Cardiff.

* * * * *

The Committee of the Society has provisionally asked the Rev. A. J. Klaiber, M.C., B.D., of Markyate, Dunstable, to become Assistant Secretary of the Society, with special reference to the circulation of the *Quarterly* and the extension of our membership. We have no doubt that the Annual Meeting will confirm the appointment, which Mr. Klaiber is ready to accept. Those who desire membership should forward their names at once to him, together with the (annual) subscription of ten shillings, which includes the four numbers of the *Quarterly* for the current year, with other privileges.

* * * * *

The arrangement by which the denominational societies meet in the provinces every other year, gives the opportunity to make acquaintance with the historical spots in many parts of the country. Glamorgan is peculiarly rich in Baptist associations, and the difficulty is to choose the villages which shall receive attention this May. Where John Myles, Christmas Evans, John Jenkin, and others laboured, two or three days might well be spent. As it is, only Wednesday afternoon can be taken, but an attractive programme will be set forth. Those members of the Baptist Historical Society who reply promptly to the invitation they will receive will be guests of two friends of the Society for the afternoon.

The story of Eythorne Baptist Church has been written by its pastor, the Rev. A. C. Miller. He has been telling it in all the neighbouring churches, and will shortly publish it through the Kingsgate Press. This little hamlet has had a Baptist church for more than 270 years, and its story is the key to all modern Baptist life in the neighbourhood. Moreover, it is still abreast of the times, and with a Sunday school of 458, bids fair to maintain its excellent place. Mr. Miller's historical essay has prompted a supplement, dealing with the other General Baptist churches in the district; an instalment of this appears in the present issue.

What is our gain from a knowledge of our history? The answer is on the same line as though we asked, What is the good of knowing any history at all? From the story of a nation over some centuries, can be deduced its peculiar aptitudes and its function in the world, its peculiar weaknesses, and the tasks which it had better leave to others. From the history of a manufacture can be discovered the improvements, the sources whence they arose, the influence of demand on supply, the influence of improved products on stimulating or altering demand. From the history of a science the student will gather what are the new problems that may be approached with a hope of success, and a knowledge that experiment in certain directions is doomed to failure. So any one who will ponder over the story of our own denomination will be the better equipped in many respects to play a useful part in the affairs of his own church, his association, the B.M.S., the denomination. He will see that we are absolutely grounded on the propagation of the gospel; that a Baptist church which is not evangelical has no right to exist, and is destined to die out; that a Baptist church which is not evangelistic has no purpose, no future. Such has been the experience of centuries, and is sure to repeat itself. He will note how Baptists are not exempt from the general rule, that co-operation vastly increases efficiency, and that co-operation involves mutual abridgment of absolute freedom: independent and isolated churches accomplish little, while brotherly, united fellowship intensifies activity. Our history shows that while personal evangelism is the foundation of all Christian service, yet our best work has been achieved when men and churches link for joint action, whether to evangelize or to educate or to better social conditions. Our history may show the futility of thinking we can be at ease in a society where sacramental and sacerdotal ideas are entertained and acted upon. We may be guided as to our attitude towards new proposals, if we know that these are in essence old proposals, simply modified in their presentation.