

Editorial.

OUR ANNUAL MEETING, planned for Rawdon Cragg on 5 May, was cancelled owing to the General Strike. Some fatality overhangs our historical excursions in Yorkshire, for a similar tour from Halifax fell through some years ago from a similar cause. The report and accounts which would have been presented will be found at page 143. The committee will carry on for another year. The description which Professor Glass intended to give of the early church at Rawdon in its romantic homes, he will give to another society which hopes for better weather; and we expect to present it to our readers in October in printed form.

EXTRA PUBLICATIONS have been rare since the cost of printing rose so greatly. Yet last month we were able to distribute to our honorary members copies of the booklet telling of Baptist Association Life in Worcestershire, 1655-1926. The importance of the Associations is being gradually discerned, as also that they have been one of the distinctive features of our denominational life. Next year we shall hope to supply copies of a work on similar lines, dealing with London Baptist Associations, 1644-1926; in this case there is not the same continuity, but the ideal has seldom been absent. The book will also epitomize the story of nearly six hundred churches within Greater London, living and dead.

THE BAPTIST BUILDING FUND is having its history, before and after birth, well treated by Mr. Seymour J. Price. Another article will appear in October, and possibly even one more in January. The whole will then be issued in one pamphlet by the Committee of the Fund itself.

OUR COLLEGES are constantly adjusting themselves to the changing conditions of education. Midland has adopted the flexible policy of awarding scholarships tenable at many places. Bristol, Rawdon, Regent's Park, and Manchester work in close alliance with universities, as also do Cardiff and Bangor. Spurgeon's has become residential. The last few years have seen many changes in the headships, so that there is not much fossilism

about curricula or teachers. Those who lay down the heavy burden that rests upon principals are at leisure yet to counsel the churches and the Union; while there is quite a choice of men in the prime of life at the head of our colleges. The influence they exert is well seen from an American example: President Mullins, of Louisville, has been called to the presidency of the Baptist World Alliance, and this summer is holding regional conferences all round Europe.

CHURCHES depend largely on ministers, and ministers on colleges. It is lamentable that even to-day our colleges are so meagrely supported, they can supply only half the number of men required each year, though four times the number of applicants clamour at their gates. One of our contributors suggests that their story should be better known. Bristol has had its history written twice, by Rippon and by Swaine. Of Dr. Ward's Trust an account has appeared in these pages. Midland has also been treated, by Avery in our *Transactions*, and separately by Carter. A centenary sketch of Rawdon by Medley was published by the Kingsgate Press. Regent's Park was commemorated by Gould. Manchester, at its jubilee ten years ago, emphasised at some length and with all its might that it stood for Strict Communion, and would not compromise by entangling alliances. Spurgeon's College, entering on a new phase, may sum up its progress hitherto. The Welsh colleges deserve adequate treatment. We doubt if churches and subscribers provide £5,000 a year to assist young men to prepare for the ministry, though eighty such are needed annually.

FORTY LECTURES on "Aspects of Contemporary Theology," will be given in Trinity College, Oxford, from 16 to 26 August, by British, Swedish, French, German, and American experts, from many communions. These are open to men and women, for a fee of £1. Those interested in the Philosophy and Psychology of Religion, Biblical Study, Comparative Religion, Sociology, and Science, should welcome the opportunity. Enquiries may be sent to the Rev. Dr. Carpenter, 11 Marston Ferry Road, Oxford.

A HISTORY OF ASSOCIATIONS will be a very welcome addition to our knowledge; and we hear that such a work is in course of preparation.