

Annual Meeting of the Society.

THE visit of the members to Edinburgh from Glasgow on May 4th was a pleasant interlude in a helpful and inspiring week. It is good to have a break even in a good thing, and the fact that nearly double the expected number turned up at the Queen Street Station, praying and beseeching Father Whitley for a train ticket, shows that many people thought so too. In all 111 embarked on the "Flying Scotsman," the last twenty being passed through the barrier without tickets—after a little more or less friendly altercation with the collector. He clearly admired our thirst for knowledge. Three members of the Committee squared things up in the corridor with the aid of Mr. Klaiber's hat, who very kindly declined to accept the price of a new one, even though his own was freely used as a till.

On arriving at Edinburgh, the members in groups and stages were guided by Dr. James Scott and representatives of the Edinburgh Baptist Association to the Scottish National War Memorial, which is erected on the summit of the Castle Rock; and none would envy the man who cannot be thrilled by all he sees. When we paused in the climb up the Mound, and saw Edinburgh once more, with its gardens and public buildings, the Scott Memorial beside Princes Street with its shops and past wealth; all of which are wrapped in traditions of their own, made us feel that it was good to be alive. The writer will not attempt to describe the War Memorial itself. One can only say that it is the finest in this land, fittingly and nobly portraying as it does, every branch of the services at home and abroad, from the men who laid down their lives to the very rats who acted as guides to the sappers in the trenches.

Having spent a few all-too-short moments in witnessing the magnificent panorama, the party descended the hill and made the best of its way to Holyrood. It seemed a long walk but full of interest from start to finish. The interior of St. Giles looked as peaceful as ever with its lovely stained glass windows; though one had visions of Jennie Geddes hurling the hassock at the head of the unfortunate clergyman in 1638, who dared to use the service prescribed for the Anglican Church! A little further down and across the road, we saw the house where that brave, but harsh and narrow, old hero (John Knox—who

never feared the face of man) used to live, and go to his church next door; where in the days of his greatest physical weakness, he was assisted into the pulpit and "bate the cushions into blathers" as he passionately exhorted the Scottish people to stand firm against those who would oppress them.

At the Tolbooth we paused to mark the site where the Baptists of 1653 met on alternate Sundays. Their other meeting-place was at Leith, where the army was garrisoned, and where in that same year they edited a Confession of Faith drawn up in London nine years earlier. In the Canongate kirkyard lies buried Sir William Sinclair, who founded a Baptist church on his domains at Keiss in 1750, and died eighteen years later in Edinburgh.

One can ever sympathise with the Scottish love of flats, particularly in towns, when it is realised that they truly served as the poor man's castle in the post-Reformation days and prevented the various factions among the nobility from wreaking their will upon him with quite the same cruelty and licence as happened all too frequently in the lonely country-side. Even the "common stair" with its gloom and mud must have been a haven of refuge for many.

Wending our way from Holyrood we eventually came to Marshall Street where, through the kindness of Mr. Douglas Stewart's church and the Edinburgh Baptist Association, we were generously provided with tea, and spent an hour in pleasant intercourse with such veterans as Percival Waugh. The writer was called on to express the thanks of the meeting, after which the business was transacted. We then returned to the Waverley Station having just had time to see the commanding site purchased by Messrs. Woolworth's in Princes Street!—and surely a sign of the times.

Our numbers as a denomination in Scotland may not be large, but we would appear to possess an influence out of all proportion to our strength. It is perhaps as well to remember in the present connection that it was a Roman Catholic historian who said that "the Baptist was the most logical of Protestants," and certainly if we are true to God and true to ourselves, we have nothing of which we need be afraid.

J. LESLIE CHOWN.

ANNUAL REPORT.

LAST year we met as the guests of the Metropolitan Tabernacle in London; this year we are in the northern capital. Our hosts belong to a church founded in 1846, whose first pastor was Francis Johnstone, trained at Bradford, and

then a leader in the Baptist Union of that day. He had called attention to the fact that in fifty years, Baptists in Scotland had increased from 400 to 5,500, and he headed a forward movement; to-day there are more than 22,500. The Society is glad to be entertained by a church which has had such leaders as Johnstone, Wylie, Thomas Stewart, and Holms Coats.

Many churches are learning to take a pride in their history, and many brief memorials are now being published, telling of jubilees, centenaries, and more distant origins. Other churches offer us careful accounts of their beginnings, in the hope that a few centuries hence, explorers will find materials carefully conserved in typescript. Far the most interesting event this coming year will be the tercentenary of the church founded in Wapping, now in Walthamstow. As this is the oldest Free Church in London, the oldest Particular Baptist Church in the world, there will be very special celebrations next September; and this year our subscribers of one guinea may expect an account of this historic ancestor, which has been prepared with great pains by its present pastor.

For 1932, however, we distributed only one such extra; a study of Calvinism and Evangelism, especially in Baptist circles, which shows how the doctrines of Paul, Augustine, Luther and Calvin, have actually been the mainstay of great missionary enterprise. Appreciations of this brochure have come from leaders in Geneva, Paris, Marburg, Halle and Athens, as well as within Britain.

Our *Quarterly* has profited by sixteen contributors on the modern side, enlisted by Mr. Seymour Price, whose work in this direction deserves all praise; his programme for the current year, preparing for the Spurgeon Centenary, is equally attractive. On the historical side, great thanks are due to the Rev. F. G. Hastings of Aberystwyth. He found in the National Library of Wales two hundred letters gathered by Isaac Mann, a leader who died just over a century ago. Mr. Hastings has with great care summarised each letter, and has calendared all in order of time. Such a mass of first-hand material has not been available for a long time, and it may not all be published even this year. Other studies have been of Leeds, of Bow, of Baptist Academies. Dr. Townley Lord is glad to review books by Baptists or bearing on Baptist life; if we had more space available, he could deal with other aspects of literature; and space depends on the number of subscribers.

Our library is in the care of Professor F. E. Robinson, in the tower of the Baptist college at Bristol. He would be glad to hear more frequently from enquirers, or to facilitate research there. Your officers have been asked to help in the

re-arrangement of the library of the Baptist Union in London; and they are arranging there a show case, in which may be displayed some of its treasures; our own Bible of 1613, used by the founders of the New Connexion, will be lent for the purpose.

H. WHEELER ROBINSON,
President.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Income.

Balance from 1931	£4 16 5
Subscriptions for 1932	99 0 0
Subscriptions paid in advance	9 15 0
Sales of publications	1 8 2
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Total receipts	£114 19 7

Expenditure.

Printing and publishing the <i>Baptist Quarterly</i>	£74 19 3
Library; card index and insurance	14 6
Annual meeting, April, 1932	6 6 6
Postage, stationery, &c.	2 17 6
Friends' Historical Society	5 0
Stamps on cheques	4 0
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Total expenses	£85 6 9
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Balance carried to 1933	£29 12 10
Deposit account, by life subscriptions	£20 13 8

F. J. BLIGHT,
Treasurer.