

# Editorial.

MR. H. ERNEST WOOD, J.P., C.C.

Mr. Wood, who was one of the foundation members of the Baptist Historical Society, has completed a year of distinguished service as President of the Baptist Union. He gave himself whole-heartedly to the duties of the office, responding with alacrity to calls from North, South, East and West. Village churches which had only beheld Presidents from afar have now seen one face to face. In the mileage travelled, and the number and variety of the meetings addressed, he has established a record that will remain until the President is an air enthusiast.

Mr. Wood would be the first to acknowledge his indebtedness to his talented younger daughter, who has been his secretary, chauffeur and "official deflator." We are grateful to her for a particularly entertaining and unconventional account of "The Presidential Year from the Driving Wheel."

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## EPISCOPAL ORDINATION.

It is well known that the Lambeth conversationalists have encountered two or three particularly difficult rocks. One is concerned with episcopal ordination. Free Church ministries, "manifestly blessed and owned by the Holy Spirit as effective means of grace," are alleged to be invalid. Another standpoint is presented by a resolution before the General Assembly of the American Presbyterian Church, which proposes

recognition of the ordination of ministers by Churches holding the episcopal system of church government as equally Apostolic, Catholic and Historic with those that hold the Presbyterian system.

Whatever may be the reactions of American episcopalians, this resolution, with its healthy reality, might well be transhipped across the Atlantic.

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## AN INNER MISSION.

At their recent Assembly, Congregationalists resolved on an "Inner Mission" to their churches. Some years ago Baptists, particularly in the North, held "Internal Missions." About the same time Dr. Clifford sounded his call to "Personal Evangelism," and more recently the Baptist Union Council called the churches

to a Discipleship Campaign. All the terms point to the feeling that the first need is a revival of the spiritual life of the Church itself. That will not come until the Church is first with members, deacons and ministers: first because they love it and work for it with the devotion of their fathers; first because they believe it greater than any social institution or political club; first because they *know* its message and believe, without the shadow of a doubt, that the power of Christ is the cure for the world's ills. The Congregationalists have issued two small books for the guidance of their churches. The first, *Disciple's Way*, by B. C. Plowright, B.A., B.D. (1/- net.) consists of six Inner Mission addresses, in which he faces frankly some of the problems of Christian living under modern industrial and business conditions. The other, *Our Congregational Churches* (3d. net.), is a "summons" to renewal, and outlines and amplifies an Inner Mission programme for the winter months, commencing in October with "The Church and its Faith," and finishing in March with "Ourselves and our neighbouring Fellowships." We heartily commend both. (Independent Press)

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### OUR SOCIETY'S PUBLICATIONS.

Several members took advantage of the recent offer of our existing publications at special prices, with the result that more numbers of the *Transactions* are out of print, and stocks of others are low. Any member who wishes to complete his sets of the *Transactions* or the *Quarterly* should communicate with the Secretary without delay.

Attention is drawn to the offer on page 3 of the cover of this number. *The Works of John Smyth* were issued in two volumes in 1915 through the Cambridge University Press, and Dr. Wheeler Robinson then described their publication as the most important literary event in the record of the Society. This literary memorial, "of a spirit finely touched to fine issues, whose living monument is constituted by the Baptist Churches of to-day," should be in the possession of all our members.

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### THE STORY OF THE HUGUENOTS.

We are glad to see that Mr. Henry J. Cowell's valuable brochure, *The Edict of Nantes and Afterwards* (Lutterworth Press, 3d.), is in its third edition. A list of English authorities on the Huguenots has been added. The generosity of a Fellow of the Huguenot Society of London enables our members to secure a free autographed copy on written application to "Huguenot," c/o Kingsgate Press, 4 Southampton Row, W.C.1.