

“Baptists Speak to the World.”

A great many ordinary members of Baptist Churches are sadly ignorant of the story of their great heritage, and of the mighty world fellowship of Baptists to which they belong. Even among those for whom the missionary enterprise provides a wide horizon there is sometimes little knowledge of the courage, endurance and tenacity of Baptists in certain parts of Europe, or of the strength and influence of Baptists in the North American Continent.

Since Baptists held their first World Congress in London in 1905, at which the Baptist World Alliance was constituted, Baptist unity and fellowship have made great headway through the work of the Alliance with its five subsequent Congresses, reaching a climax in “Atlanta 1939.” To have been at any of these gatherings is a great privilege; to have been to Atlanta is a unique experience. It is doubtful if any description could convey the atmosphere of this astonishing, many-sided event. Dr. Rushbrooke told press representatives in Atlanta he was sorry that the nature of the Congress left them little opportunity for the exaggeration supposed to characterise American newspapermen.

The Congress is in danger of being neglected in this country through the pressure of the more immediate and tragic events in Europe. Only a comparatively few people will read the official report. It is therefore very welcome news that Rev. Ernest A. Payne has produced a brochure under the above title giving a popular report of the Congress. Its vivid word-pictures of the crowded days in Atlanta will give to anyone who reads it as much of the “overflow” of those days as anything, short of being there, could convey. This book, which contains six illustrations and a panoramic cover, ought to be in every Baptist home. It is the best thing Mr. Payne has written, and it is published by the Carey Press at the modest price of sixpence.

W. TAYLOR BOWIE.