

Editorial Notes.

IT was a great pleasure to have in Britain from October to December last Dr. Kenneth Scott Latourette, Professor of Missions and Oriental History at Yale University, and the author of the monumental *History of the Expansion of Christianity*, which is one of the greatest individual achievements by any scholar of this generation. We are proud to think that this distinguished historian is a Baptist, and it was gratifying as well as fitting that his first lectures in this country should be at Regent's Park College, Oxford. Baptists may perhaps enjoy some reflected glory from the Honorary D.D., which Oxford University conferred upon Professor Latourette on December 13th. It is an action which has given very widespread satisfaction. Are we right in thinking that he is the first Baptist to have this degree conferred upon him? Dr. Latourette's visit to the General Committee of the Baptist Missionary Society and to the Baptist Board, and his lectures in Birmingham and elsewhere, were deeply appreciated. The greatness of his service to the World Church at this time lies, not only in the collection and ordering of a vast amount of material never before so brought together, but in the confident and challenging message which the historian is ready to proclaim at the end of his studies.

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As recorded in our last issue, the Conference on the Study of Baptist History and Principles, held during the Baptist World Congress at Copenhagen, urged the importance among other things, of an authoritative international Baptist bibliography. The first part of a very important work of this kind now lies before us. It is Section A of *A Baptist Bibliography, being a register of printed material by and about Baptists, including works written against the Baptists*, by Edward C. Starr, and it is published by the Judson Press for the Samuel Colgate Baptist Historical Collection, Colgate University, Hamilton, New York. The material is being ordered alphabetically, with supplementary chronological and subject indices, and the work when completed, will run to twenty volumes or so. Section A may be had bound in blue cloth for \$2.50, and there is also a paper covered edition

which is, however, unsuitable for library purposes. Mr. and Mrs. Starr, the Colgate Trustees, and all those who are co-operating in this undertaking are to be warmly congratulated and thanked. This new publication owes a great deal to Dr. Whitley's *Baptist Bibliography*, but Dr. Whitley was unable to examine a number of American Libraries, and notably the Colgate Library and that at Providence, Rhode Island. Though its basic arrangement is different, Mr. Starr's work is in reality a new and greatly enlarged and extended edition of Dr. Whitley's work, all the more welcome because it is very uncertain when it will be possible for the Baptist Historical Society to publish the material Dr. Whitley has already collected for the period subsequent to 1837. The present section contains, for example, entries covering the printed works of Christopher Anderson and Joseph Angus. Nowhere save in the catalogues of the British Museum and the Bodleian Libraries have we any comparable lists, and Mr. Starr's pages are, we suspect, a great deal more complete. We shall eagerly await the publication of further sections of this work, and hope that some British scholars may be able to respond to Mr. Starr's invitation to co-operate with him. We may, perhaps, be allowed to express some surprise that no one at the meeting in Copenhagen was able to say anything about this major project behind which there must lie years of preparation. This fact surely underlines the importance and urgency of the service which the Baptist World Alliance might, and should, render in this field.

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Mention of libraries leads us to note that for more than two hundred years, Dr. Williams's Library has been available for the public, and through the faithful and wise administration by its Trustees has become of growing usefulness and importance. The income available for its maintenance is now, however, quite inadequate in view of changed economic conditions. The Pilgrim Trust and the Hibbert Trust are making grants for the recataloguing of the unique material dealing with early Nonconformity. On October 7th last, a further important step was taken by the formation of a society to be known as the "Friends of Dr. Williams's Library." A large company gathered at Gordon Square, and after the necessary business had been transacted listened to a most interesting and informative lecture on the history and resources of the Library by Mr. Stephen Jones, the former librarian. Already over 200 Friends have been enrolled. The Dean of St. Paul's, who as a student made frequent use of the Library, has agreed to be President of the new Society, and among the Vice-Presidents are Professor H. H. Rowley and the

Rev. E. A. Payne. Full particulars of a venture which should receive generous support from many grateful Baptists may be had from the Rev. Roger Thomas, 14, Gordon Square, London, W.C.1.

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Another important American publication which has not, we think, had attention called to it in this country is A. J. F. Zieglschmid's edition of *Die älteste Chronik der Hutterischen Brüder*. Of this a thousand copies were printed in 1943 by the Carl Schurz Memorial Foundation with the help of a generous grant from the American Council of Learned Societies. It is much to be hoped that a few copies, at any rate, were made available for libraries in Europe. The work (which runs to more than a thousand pages) presents for the first time a complete text, with critical apparatus and indices (all in German), of the unique sixteenth century manuscript chronicle of the Hutterian Brethren, one of the main groups of Moravian Anabaptists. Carefully treasured and guarded through all the tribulations that befell the remnant of the Brethren in the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the manuscript was taken by emigrants to South Dakota in 1874. Much of the material of the *Chronicle* passed into the Mennonite *Martyrs' Mirror*, of which several English editions exist, including that of the Hanserd Knollys Society, but much scholarly work has since been done on Anabaptist traditions and origins. Mr. Zieglschmid carries further the work of Beck, Loesch, Loserth and Wolkan on the Continent, and H. S. Bender, Ernst Correll and John Horsch in America. Here is further evidence of the importance of the resources now available on the other side of the Atlantic, and the way in which Americans are facing their responsibilities in this as in other fields.

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After twenty-four years of distinguished service as Secretary of the Congregational Union of England and Wales, Dr. Sidney Berry is retiring in the summer of 1948. Baptists have many reasons for gratitude to Dr. Berry for friendly co-operation in matters of common concern to Free Churchmen, and in the work of the United Chaplaincy Board. Dr. Berry is not seeking leisure or freedom. On leaving the Congregational Union he is undertaking the leadership of the International Congregational Council which is in process of expansion into a kind of Congregational World Alliance. This is an extremely interesting development, a new alignment which has one eye on the formal launching of the World Council of Churches at Amsterdam next summer, and another on important trends of thought in some of the Continental churches. Baptists, who believe in the Baptist World

Alliance, will wish well to International Congregationalism and to Dr. Berry, and will look forward to studying their detailed plans.

There has been general gratification at the nomination of the Rev. Leslie Cooke, of Coventry, to the secretaryship of the Congregational Union, and he can be assured of the cordial goodwill of Baptists when he takes up his new tasks. We notice that in certain circles there has been public questioning of the method of nomination adopted for a post of such importance, viz., from a very small nominated Sub-Committee, to the General Purposes Committee of the Council of the Congregational Union, and thence, for what can only be a formal ratification, to the Annual Assembly. It is suggested that the churches, or at least the County Unions, should be directly consulted before an appointment is made to such a key position. Our interest in this matter comes from the fact that our Baptist polity and our usual procedure on such occasions are very similiar to those of Congregationalism. Since we are not yet ourselves faced with any immediate necessity of the kind that Congregationalists have had to deal with, we have a useful opportunity for reflection on the best way of securing nominations to major denominational appointments.

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While this issue of the *Baptist Quarterly* was passing through the press, news came of the death in his eighty-seventh year of Dr. W. T. Whitley, President of the Baptist Historical Society, a former editor of this journal and *doyen* of Baptist historians. In our next issue we shall give some account of Dr. Whitley's life and work. Here we can do no more than express the sense of personal loss felt by all those brought into contact with Dr. Whitley, who was among the kindest of men. Throughout the English speaking world, Dr. Whitley was recognised as an authority on all aspects of Baptist history. What he did to uncover and conserve the story of the past will continue to bear fruit for many generations to come.