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Editorial Notes

THE Baptist Historical Society will hold its ANNUAL MEETING on Monday, 23rd April, from 4.30 to 6 p.m., in the Lounge at Bloomsbury Central Church. Following a short business session there will be an address by the Rev. GORDON RUPP, M.A., B.D., tutor in Church history at Richmond Methodist College. It is hoped that a light tea at a moderate charge may be provided, and it will simplify catering arrangements if those who intend being present will, well beforehand, notify the Secretary, Rev. G. W. Hughes, 156, Reinwood Road, Lindley, Huddersfield. These meetings are greatly appreciated by those who attend and we trust that everyone who can will make an effort to be present this year.

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At the Assembly of 1925 the minister of St. Andrew's Street, Cambridge was appointed Secretary of the Baptist Union. At the Assembly of April, 1951, the Rev. M. E. Aubrey, C.H., D.C.L., LL.D., will hand over the Secretaryship to his successor, the Rev. Ernest A. Payne, M.A., B.D., B.Litt. The twenty-six years during which Mr. Aubrey has occupied the secretarial chair have been among the most difficult in the history of the denomination. The first Assembly for which he was responsible was held during the General Strike, six others were held during the tumult and tragedy of war and the whole period has been characterised by tension and disorder abroad and changes of a revolutionary nature at home. Those twenty-six years have seen the work of the Baptist Union multiply enormously and become increasingly complex. They have seen great denominational enterprises inaugurated, culminating in Baptist Advance. Significant developments have taken place in many directions, interest in the work of the Union has grown, the sense of Baptist fellowship has deepened and the denomination has taken its rightful place in the formation and work of the Free Church Federal Council, the British Council of Churches, of which Mr. Aubrey is a Vice-President, and the World Council of Churches, of whose Central Committee he is an honoured member. To have remained at the helm throughout these significant years has been itself no mean achievement. A lesser man could not have endured the strain. In the high and onerous office which he has filled with

distinction, Mr. Aubrey has manifested rare gifts and exercised statesmanlike leadership which the Assembly will salute with gratitude as a memorable Secretaryship comes to a close.

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The American weekly, *Time*, is not a journal in which one expects to meet British Baptists. But casually glancing through a copy some time ago we were agreeably surprised to see smiling from the open page the unmistakable, genial features of "scholarly Dr. F. Townley Lord, pastor of Bloomsbury Central Church in London, England." That week, in Cleveland, the greatest honour in the gift of Baptists—the Presidency of the Baptist World Alliance—had been conferred upon the Burnley-born editor of the *Baptist Times* who is, incidentally, a member of our own Committee and has been prominently associated with the Historical Society for some years. As far as Baptists in this country are concerned no more popular choice for the B.W.A. Presidency could have been made. Dr. Lord will deliver his Presidential Address at the Jubilee Congress of the Alliance in London in 1955.

Before this issue of the *Quarterly* is published, Dr. Lord will have crossed the Atlantic for a three months' presidential journey in the course of which he will take the chair at the meeting in April of the World Alliance Executive and visit the Northern Convention in Boston, the Southern Convention in San Francisco and the Ontario and Quebec Convention in Hamilton. He will take part in various college and university celebrations, ministers' conferences and in the evangelistic campaigns which are being held simultaneously in 20,000 churches of the Southern Convention. In addition he will be preaching on Sundays in churches in the North and South. As he undertakes this formidable programme, Dr. Lord will be accompanied by the good wishes of all British Baptists.

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By the sudden death of Dr. Percy W. Evans (reported while this issue was printing) not only has the Baptist Historical Society lost an honoured Vice-President but the denomination is deprived of a leader whose scholarship, wisdom and personal character had gained for him widespread admiration and affection within the Free Churches and beyond. The influence of his distinguished twenty-five years' Principalship of Spurgeon's College will long remain. We hope to print a commemorative article in due course but, meanwhile, we mourn the passing of a great man the denomination can ill spare.