

## Editorial Notes.

THE Annual Meeting of the Baptist Historical Society will be held at 4.30 p.m. on Monday, 28th April, in the Lounge at Bloomsbury Central Church, when it is hoped there will be a good attendance of members and friends. Following a short business meeting an address will be given by the Rev. Hugh Martin, M.A., D.D., whose subject will be *Baptists and the Great Church: or Independence and Catholicity*. It is hoped to arrange for tea to be served at a moderate charge, and it would facilitate arrangements if those who intend to be present notify the Society's Secretary well beforehand.

\* \* \* \* \*

From time to time references have been made in this journal to the Seventh Day Baptists. In the United States they number over 6,000 and have more than sixty churches. Meeting on the premises of our Upper Holloway church in London, on "the Sabbath, commonly called Saturday," their one and only church in this country retains its historically significant name of "Mill Yard." Its minister is Rev. James McGeachy who, with members scattered over England as well as London itself, valiantly labours in the face of many difficulties. Last year, Rev. and Mrs. E. H. Bottoms, on their way from the U.S.A. to New Zealand under the auspices of the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society, conducted a brief campaign for the Mill Yard Church, as a result of which a dozen or so new persons were contacted. Particulars of the Seventh Day Baptist church membership in other parts of the world may not be uninteresting to our readers. These are: Jamaica, 640; British Guiana, 148; Holland, 102; Germany, 297; New Zealand, 47; Central Africa, 800; South India, 125, while figures from China are not available. The Seventh Day Baptist General Conference, which will be holding its Annual Meetings at Denver, Colorado, in August, engages in a variety of activities, including overseas missions, the publication of literature (including its organ *The Sabbath Recorder*), and relief work in Germany while, in the sphere of education, it is associated with Alfred University in New York, which has nearly 2,000 students, a School of Theology at Alfred, Milton College, Winconsin, and Salem College, West Virginia. By no means numerically large, the Seventh Day Baptists are, however, obviously very much alive and zealous in making their distinctive witness in various parts of the world.

\* \* \* \* \*

Rev. Eric C. Rust, M.A., B.D., M.Sc., the senior tutor at the Rawdon Baptist College, has had a scientific as well as a theological training. Baptist congregations know him not only as a scholar, but as a preacher who has something to say and knows how to say it. He was, therefore, well qualified to deliver the fifth Joseph Smith Memorial Lecture, in Birmingham, last October. This lectureship commemorates a former lecturer in Overdale College who was himself a preacher of distinction. Two other Baptists have preceded Mr. Rust; in 1948, the late Dr. P. W. Evans lectured on "Some Lessons from Marcion," and the year following, Professor H. H. Rowley took as his theme, "The Authority of the Bible." The subject selected by Mr. Rust was "Preaching in a Scientific Age."<sup>1</sup> Taking within his survey current trends in science, philosophy and theology, Mr. Rust refused to be intimidated by those which are hostile to the Christian religion and asserted a confident and robust Biblical faith that proclaims an eternal word which is the same in a scientific or any other age. At the end he put in a plea for declaring the Christian message against a vaster background: "In this age of science, men see themselves against the vastness of the universe with its fathomless depths, and in a world where the collective looms large. We need to re-awaken a sense of human worth in the light of God's revelation, an awareness of the significance of human sin in its social setting, an appreciation that Christ's redemption is cosmic. Ethical commonplaces and small-scale preaching will not appeal to the many who are without." To have heard the lecture must have proved a pleasurable and heartening experience. The reading of it by those who, in an age when science is accorded an irrational worship, are called to declare the Gospel will inspire in them a bolder sense of assurance.

<sup>1</sup> Copies of the lecture are obtainable from the Secretary, Overdale College, Selly Oak, Birmingham 29, at 1s. 4½d. per copy, post free.

---

*Prayers and Services for Christian Festivals*, by James M. Todd.  
(Geoffrey Cumberlege: Oxford University Press, 8s. 6d.)

Prepared as a companion to *A Book of Public Worship* this provides, for Free Church worship, prayers and orders of service appropriate to the Christian year and other special occasions. Mr. Todd may be congratulated upon compiling a most useful manual which we warmly commend to those who lead worship in the Free Churches. Not the least helpful of its many excellencies is its provision for several occasions not included in most other books of the kind.