

The BAPTIST QUARTERLY

The Journal of the Baptist Historical Society

VOLUME XXI

JANUARY, 1965

No. 1

Editorial

The fact that the annual assembly of the Baptist Union is to be held in Leeds this year means that special arrangements have had to be made regarding the Society's A.G.M. The details are as follows. The meeting will be held in Zion Baptist Church, Hough Lane, Bramley, Leeds, at 4 p.m. on Monday, 3rd May, and it will be followed by high tea. Bookings for the meal will be made through the Delegates' Application form. We are advised that it will be a matter of "Cash with Order" and that the flat rate charge of approximately 5s. will include the cost of transport to Bramley from the centre of Leeds and for the return journey in time for the first session of the Assembly at 7.15 p.m. Members of the Society who will be attending *but not as delegates* should get in touch with our secretary, the Rev. W. M. S. West.

*

*

*

A special word of thanks is due to the Rev. D. C. Sparkes who is responsible for the index to Volume XX which accompanies the present issue. Mr. Sparkes has done this on top of his continuing toil on the cumulative index which he is preparing for us. We are greatly indebted to him. Readers will notice that our usual feature "In the Study" is missing this quarter. In order to anticipate inquiries may we assure Mr. Clark's many appreciative readers that this valuable discussion of current theological writing will be resumed in our next issue.

*

*

*

A most valuable note on "Archives and Manuscripts in Non-conformist Libraries" has been contributed to *Archives*, Vol. VI No. 32, October 1964, by Mr. C. E. Welch, archivist of the Southampton Record Office. The note includes a list of libraries with brief notes on the contents and facilities for access. It is incomplete partly because some institutions failed to reply to the enquiry even when a reminder was sent, and partly because Mr. Welch decided not to include missionary colleges and institutions. Nevertheless it is still an important guide for the researcher. Mr. Welch found from his survey that "if facilities could be improved there is an almost completely unexplored source of archives and manuscripts in nonconformist libraries. The first step in making them more accessible might well be a complete survey similar to those of diocesan records and cathedral libraries which were financed by the Pilgrim Trust."

The process of specialisation, continually being intensified, is a mark of our day in every field of study. It is a process which has its repercussions in the world of learned periodicals and one of these is *A Journal of Church and State*. This is one of the younger periodicals (it has been coming out since 1959) and it is published three times a year by the J. M. Dawson Studies in Church and State, Box 258, Baylor University, Waco, Texas. Strong Baptist backing for the *Journal* is evidenced by names on the Editorial Council, but the Editors themselves come from various religious traditions and are committed to the publication of scholarly material representing diverse points of view. Each issue contains five or six major articles, in addition to other notes and book reviews on this specialist theme.

It is good to know that a journal of this calibre is being devoted to a subject so important. Yet the problem created by the process of specialisation becomes ever more difficult to solve. Certainly the average person cannot hope to buy or even see more than a fraction of the learned journals now issued in the field of divinity. Even a well subsidized theological library has to pick and choose among them. As to keeping track of the multitudinous articles, essays, notes and reviews the student and the scholar must increasingly count upon two things, (a) good indexing, and (b) a development of the use of abstracts, a field in which the U.S.A. appears to be well ahead.