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The BAPTIST QUARTERLY

The Journal of the Baptist Historical Society

VOLUME XXI

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Editorial

THE Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on Monday, 25th April, in the Institute Hall of Westminster Chapel. It was a successful occasion, only marred by the absence (through illness) of the president. Except for the meeting of 1948, when he was away, this was the first meeting of the Society that Dr. Payne had missed in forty years. The secretary, Dr. W. M. S. West, voiced the concern and good wishes of all present and warmly thanked Rev. W. S. Davies, who took the chair on Dr. Payne's behalf.

The Report of the Baptist Union Council expressed the encouraging view that our Society is "probably now in as strong a position as at any time since its formation". Something of this welcome vigour made itself felt in the A.G.M. Advance copies of the keenly anticipated Cumulative Index to the *Transactions* arrived in time for the meeting and were sold out. In fulfilling the laborious task of compiling the Index and in seeing it off the press, Rev. D. C. Sparkes has given us a most valuable working tool and has put all students of Baptist history permanently in his debt. It is good to know that he has already begun work on the next volume of the Index which will cover the first ten volumes of the *Quarterly*. The secretary announced that all being well the first Henton Lecture would be delivered in 1967.

The treasurer's report showed that the Society had paid its way. A warning of increased printing costs to come meant, however, that a serious effort to increase the membership would have to be made and it was hoped that all existing members would help in this. The meeting was informed that, after serving in the treasurership for over thirty years, Mr. Calder now felt that the time had come to hand over to a successor. Dr. West expressed the Society's appreciation of the care and wisdom with which Mr. Calder had administered our finances during this long period and it was unanimously agreed, as a mark of the Society's respect and gratitude, to appoint him a Vice-President. It is as well to mention here, that since the A.G.M. the committee has appointed Rev. T. S. H. Elwyn, M.A., B.Sc., B.D., to succeed Mr. Calder, subject to the approval of the Society at its next meeting. Meanwhile all subscriptions and other monies due to the Society should be sent to Mr. Elwyn at 1, St. Edmund's Road, Temple Hill, Dartford, Kent.

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The Warwickshire County Record Office is engaged in a survey of the older records relating to Nonconformity in Warwickshire, excluding Coventry and Birmingham which are, of course, County Boroughs. Similar surveys of the records of Anglican and Roman Catholic churches have already brought to light many documents which might otherwise have been lost. All the churches approached so far have been glad to have a list of their records, especially when the list made it obvious that many of the older records had been lost. The primary purpose of the survey is to list the records of each church, to give advice on their storage and preservation, and to encourage the deposit of the older records which are no longer needed for legal or administrative purposes in the County Record Office on loan for safekeeping. Attleborough Baptist Church, Nuneaton, has already deposited its records in this way and a microfilm copy of the earliest Alcester Minute Book has been made.

A subject of special concern is that of tracing the records of churches which have now closed. As no one is responsible for them, they are in real danger of the salvage cart, and may be lost for ever. Anyone with information which would interest those conducting this survey should get in touch with the County Record Office, Shire Hall, Warwick.

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Rev. M. S. Edwards of 2, Elms Close Terrace, Newlyn, Penzance, has copies of the *Evangelical Magazine*, 1793-1800, and of the *Baptist Magazine*, 1809-10, 1812-14, 1821-23, 1825-26, 1829, 1831, which he would like to exchange for an equivalent number of Methodist magazines (of any Methodist tradition) of about the same period.