

Dr. Ernest A. Payne

IT will give great pleasure to the readers of THE BAPTIST QUARTERLY that this special issue has been produced in honour of the president of our society, Dr. Ernest A. Payne. The occasion which prompts it is, of course, the completion of his term of office as General Secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland. The tributes which have been, and are being, paid to him at this time have brought home to us all, with new force, the range and quality of the service which he has been rendering to our denomination and to the Christian Church as a whole. It would be impossible even to begin to summarize them here and it is unnecessary to attempt that task. Nevertheless, we of the Baptist Historical Society do not want the occasion to pass without putting on record our own sense of gratitude to one who, before becoming the society's president, had already given important service to it as committee member, editor and vice-president.

Not the least remarkable of Dr. Payne's achievements is that during his term of office at Baptist Church House he has continued, even extended, his scholarly contribution to the study of Baptist history. The most obvious evidence of that fact is a list of written works from his pen (ranging in size from short contributions in works of reference to major studies such as his history of the Baptist Union) which is nothing less than astonishing to those who know anything of the demands and pressures of his work as General Secretary. But his service is not confined to written work. His care and watchfulness often save records which would otherwise be lost and through his instrumentality many important works have been added to Baptist libraries. Almost alone he has worked to ensure the proper care of Bunhill Fields, a memorial of so much in our Free Church heritage. These are but illustrations of his constant vigilance for things we all ought to treasure but often neglect.

He has been the consultant and friend of countless research students. Indeed it would not be far from the truth to say that anyone who engages in Baptist research gets advised by his supervisor to call on Dr. Payne sooner rather than later. All who have done so would bear witness to the value of his counsel and encouragement. Many a thesis has been enriched through the suggestions he has made and the clues he has given.

In addition to all this has been the leadership given to the work of our society. Not long ago he expressed the view that the society is probably in as strong a position today as at any time since its formation. Ever ready to give credit to others, he must now allow

us to point out that he himself is chiefly responsible for this situation. Only through illness or absence from the country has he ever missed a committee meeting and he brings to every item of business an unrivalled experience and insight.

We must now, however, confess publicly that in one important project the committee has ignored and bypassed the president. This was, of course, in the matter of the present issue of *THE BAPTIST QUARTERLY* and on no aspect of this was Dr. Payne consulted! It is our hope that it will bring him pleasure equal to that which has gone into the preparation of it. The only difficulty which it presented was in the selection of those who should contribute. There was no shortage of possible candidates as is evidenced by the varied and distinguished team of contributors to the major *Festschrift* published under the title *Outlook for Christianity*. It seemed, however, that Dr. Payne might gain special satisfaction from a collection of essays by some of his former students at Regent's Park College and this is what has been done. Even on that basis the number of contributors had to be restricted to seven. (One would like to think that there was some special significance in that number but it was determined by mundane considerations of space!) All those invited promptly and enthusiastically seized the chance to pay their tribute in this way. To the many who would have liked to contribute but who could not even be offered the opportunity to do so, we offer our sincere apologies. We hope they will feel that those who have written constitute a group reasonably representative of the manifold interests and forms of service which Dr. Payne has encouraged.

The opening paragraphs in Dr. W. M. S. West's essay indicate one or two aspects of the teacher we had in Dr. Payne. He was concerned not just to transmit information from his head to ours but to *educate* in the fullest and finest sense of that word. One contributor sent with his typescript a letter which recorded his debt in the following words. "From where I started in 1946 I think what was most valuable to me was his combination of acutely critical scholarship, with everything fearlessly and honestly examined, and standards of the highest accuracy and clarity insisted upon—this, with his quiet depth of conviction and *passionate* devotion to what he believed, made a lasting impression on me. He is one of the few men for whom I have felt a *continually growing* esteem and even veneration as the years have passed." These are words which all the contributors would echo. One of them mentions a further aspect of Dr. Payne's work as a tutor, his pastoral care of men. "When I went to Oxford . . . there were many difficult adjustments to be made and at this point he revealed his deep concern for all his students." Many could confirm that testimony from personal experience. Concerned academically to bring out the best that was in us (whatever that best might be) and to set the highest standards before

us, Ernest Payne never forgot that he was pastor as well as tutor, helping to make us as men and as ministers of the future.

In offering these essays to him we remember the days when we used to go to his home at Oxford, equipped with our latest *magnum opus*, and how, after being welcomed at the door by his wife or daughter (neither of whose charms were ever lost on keen-eyed young students), we proceeded to the more businesslike encounter in the study, returning to college at length not always sadder but invariably wiser than before. These essays may indeed remind Dr. Payne of limitations in us which he did not succeed in overcoming! But however he assesses them we know he will accept them as a sign and token of our permanent gratitude, esteem and affection.

G. W. RUSLING

Health and Salvation in the Old Testament

THE question of sickness and health is of common concern to all men. It raises problems not only for the sufferer, but also for every sensitive person. Such is the Christian minister. For him the question becomes acute because of his close and frequent involvement in the sufferings of others and in the mental effort of coming to terms with these sufferings.

We cannot be satisfied to leave the work of healing entirely to the medical profession. Nor can we simply point to the healing ministry of Jesus as justification for our belief that we should have some part in it. W. L. Carrington says, "The essential background and main justification for all the Church's attempts to mediate the healing power of God to His ailing children in this way is the biblical record of the healing works of Jesus together with His committal of His disciples to the carrying on of those works, and the available accounts of their works of healing."¹ Valuable as this may be, we need to place alongside it a theology of health in relation to the salvation wrought by Christ. Paul Tillich² has attempted to provide this and Charles Duthie³ has described this as the only real attempt to do so. There is also needed a study of the concepts as they occur in the Bible. This article is an attempt to look at the views of health and its relation to salvation in the Old Testament.

A true understanding of health involves first of all a true understanding of sickness as it impairs health. References in the Old