

centred on how a particular past event could be said to be an "act of God" for us. Locked into such questions was the matter of how God "acts" at all in the world, apart from the present experience of faith. Today, the concept of God's activity in the world has taken on a new lease of life, partly because newer metaphysics have arrived on the scene (such as process thought), partly because there has been a recovery of such theological themes as promise and fulfilment, and partly also because for many people the contemporary demand to be involved in the causes of peace and justice requires an understanding of God's present activity.

Quite inadvertently but wholly appropriately, the seventy-fifth anniversary also sees this month the appearance of three important publications, for two of which the Society is directly responsible, and closely concerned with the third. In the first place, there is the first volume in the new history of English Baptists, by Dr Barrie White, dealing with the seventeenth century. Second, there is the volume of essays, "Baptists in the Twentieth Century", consisting of the papers given at the society's summer school last year. Thirdly, this month also sees the publication of the biography of Dr Ernest Payne, by Dr Morris West. Notes on these publications will be found elsewhere in this issue, and it is most heartening to be able to report on these latest developments of Baptist historiography. Full reviews of these works will, of course, appear in the *Quarterly* before long.

BIOGRAPHY OF DR ERNEST PAYNE

This month sees the publication by Lutterworth Press of *To be a Pilgrim: a memoir of Ernest A. Payne*, by Dr W. M. S. West, Vice-President of the Baptist Historical Society and Principal of Bristol Baptist College. The price is £4-95.

Members of the Society will not need any persuading of the interest and significance of the book. The publishers state: "A shy man who was always surrounded by people. A true Baptist whose greatest contribution was in the wider ecumenical movement. A globe-trotter who hated the chores of travelling. An historian who was very much involved in the present and planning for the future. An academic who worked as an ecclesiastical politician. Perhaps it was the unusual merging of opposites which made him the special person that he was, and this *Memoir* brings out the many interests that he had and the many facets of his character".

- 19 Simon, B., *Studies in the History of Education, Vol.2. Education and the Labour Movement*, London, 1965. This deals with socialist Sunday schools at some length.
- 20 *The Northern Star*, 15th April, 1843. This was the main Chartist newspaper.
- 21 *History of the Birmingham Co-operative Society Ltd. 1881-1931*. Birmingham, p.14.
- 22 Kitson Clark, G., *The Making of Victorian England*, London, 1962, p.165.

CHRISTOPHER JAMES

The Baptist Historical Society is pleased to announce the publication of the first part of the new Baptist History:

The English Baptists of the Seventeenth Century

by B. R. WHITE

Price £4-95 (U.S.A. \$10.00)

This important new study by our President begins with a survey of Baptist historians from Thomas Crosby to the present generation. Dr White then reviews the origins of the General and of the Calvinistic Baptists, and follows their development through the era of the Great Persecution up to 1688.

Also published this month -

Baptists in the Twentieth Century

edited by K. W. Clements

This volume contains the papers given at the 1982 Summer School, which looked at various aspects of Baptist witness in recent times. Members who heard these papers at Malvern felt they would appeal to a wider audience.

This volume also costs £4-95 (U.S.A. \$10.00).

Both are available from the Treasurer.

Mr Allan H. Calder, F.C.A., Treasurer of the Society from 1934 to 1965 and Vice-President since 1966 died on 10 February 1983. We remember his service with gratitude. An appreciation will appear in the next issue.