SUMMER SCHOOL 1985

Members of the Society gathered at Bradford in July for the Summer School on 'Regional Baptist Life'. About 45 were able to attend for the whole or part of the weekend, and the arrangements were in the capable hands of the Secretary, Roger Hayden.

A new generation of Baptist historians was well in evidence: indeed, three of the speakers were Oxford doctoral students. Also enjoyably in evidence were a variety of accents. The interest of both Denzil Morgan's paper on Welsh Baptists and Sam Henry's on those of Fife was increased by the pleasure of hearing native tongues getting round those Celtic place names. It was a delight too for Baptists of the 'old country' to be led lovingly around the Baptist communities of 18th century Wiltshire and Hampshire and of the Pennines by two speakers from the Southern States, Karen Smith and Bill Poe.

The emphasis in Bradford was on northern Baptists, especially on the Saturday, including a coach trip round the former preaching grounds of John Fawcett and Dan Taylor. On a wider front the Society was invited to explore the neglected ground of Baptist financial history, and take a fresh look at 19th century mission fields, where there was already a conflict between imperialism and 'liberation theology'. Most of the papers will appear in the Quarterly in due course.

A happy aspect of these Summer Schools is the mingling of professional and amateur historians, of ministers and laymen, of young and old, enjoying shared interests. Those members who attended this year would encourage others to consider going another time.

FAITH BOWERS