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A table of contents for *The Baptist Quarterly* can be found here:

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than by way of place/name index, would have been helpful, even if incomplete. The Hertfordshire Census Returns are of most significance for their statistical import, other information given by way of comment being sparse, save in the area of pews, weather, finance and illness [which Upton gives as explanation for lower than average attendance in his own church, the 420 at morning worship in 1851 not matching the 600 in 1847]. Rebourm, however, throws up a church described as 'Primitive Baptist' which Upton advises was 'hyper-Calvinist'.

The editor's introduction is helpful though I would question her distinction between ministers, 'otherwise described as preachers, deacons or priests', and officials designated as either steward or manager. With one exception those returns made by women were all for Methodist churches.

Given the riches of these two returns now made available in printed form, might the Hertfordshire Record Society also print the county series for the registration of dissenting chapels and meeting houses, as provided for Staffordshire and more recently for Wiltshire? Cross-referencing between the three documents could prove very rewarding.

## SOCIETY NEWS

At the Baptist Assembly in Blackpool, the Baptist Historical Society will hold an Open Forum on Wednesday, 1 May 1996, 2.15 to 4.15, at North Shore Methodist Church. The subject will be *The 3Rs of Local Baptist History*: recording, writing and retaining. It will include some consideration of oral history. All members of the Society have a potential role in this work: come and hear what you could be doing and tell us about initiatives already taken.

The Annual General Meeting will take place on Saturday, 6 July, at Stoneygate Baptist Church, Leicester. Dr Rod Ambler will speak on 'General Baptists in Lincolnshire' and the Revd Thornton Elwyn on '18th-Century Calvinistic Baptists in Northamptonshire'.

In April 1994 the *Quarterly* carried a review of *Chard Baptists*. The author, Malcolm Bonnington, wrote to draw attention to two errors: his name had been given incorrectly as Michael and the date 1742 should have been 1842. The sub-editor can only apologize for these errors, and for the delay in getting his letter to her to make these corrections. Anyone wanting a copy (£14.95 + p&p) should write to Dr Malcolm Bonnington, 16 Elizabeth Way, Chard, TA20 1BY, as Forum Books is no longer operating at the address originally given.

And there is still time to enter the Payne Memorial Essay competition - October's 'last chance' was premature! See inside back cover.