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FROM THE EDITOR

This issue of the *Quarterly* has a special focus on the life of W.T. Whitley who for much of his life was the Baptist Historical Society and the *Baptist Quarterly* incarnate. But for his vision and energy, the Society would not be the lively body that it is today. We, therefore, gladly take this occasion to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of his death. Most of the unsigned articles in the early years of the *Quarterly*, and of the earlier *Transactions*, seem to have come from the pen of Whitley, the Society's indefatigable foundation secretary.

The *Quarterly* has now been published for seventy-six years, first appearing on 1 January 1922, with Dr Whitley and Dr Dakin as joint editors. John Clifford commended the new publication, endorsing its potential usefulness in a critical situation. Whilst he thought there were many promising signs in the post-war world, including the work of the Baptist World Alliance in favour of Evangelical minorities in Europe and a new interest in evangelism amongst British churches, he also argued, 'The world today is full of prejudices which require to be exposed and destroyed concerning God, and religion, and the New Testament, and our churches

are weakened by false and inaccurate thinking upon the vital elements of spiritual life.'

Henry Wheeler Robinson, as President of the Society, wrote the first editorial, appealing 'to all those who cherish Baptist convictions, and are prepared to love the past for the sake of the present, as well as to those who love the past for its own sake'. He claimed that Baptist history witnessed many common themes from the seventeenth century to the present day: 'the same devotion to evangelical truth, loyalty to the Scriptures, passion for religious and social liberty, which we like to think are ours still'. Three-quarters of a century later, the present editors echo his sentiments and believe that these underlie the ongoing success of the journal.

SOCIETY NEWS

We congratulate both the present editor and his predecessor on recent academic honours. John Briggs has been made an Honorary Professor in the School of History, Birmingham University, as he moves to become Principal of West Hill College of Higher Education. Keith Clements, now Secretary of the Council of European Churches, has been awarded an Honorary PhD for his published work by the University of Bristol.

For the new addresses of Professor Briggs and the Society's Secretary, the Revd Stephen Copson, see the inside front cover of this issue.

We are always glad to note members' academic achievements. Frank W. Rinaldi has just been awarded the PhD degree of Glasgow University for a dissertation entitled 'The Tribe of Dan. The New Connexion of General Baptists 1770-1891: A Study in the Transition from Revival Movement to Established Denomination'.

ANY ANSWERS?

The Secretary receives many enquiries relating to Baptist history. He would welcome any help readers may be able to give in relation to two of these. If you can assist, please contact the Revd Stephen Copson (address inside front cover).

1. Revd William Hughes and the African Training Institute in Colwyn Bay, 1889-1912. Does anyone have information on the whereabouts of the Institute's records?
2. Moses Richter, born in Chernovtsy in Romania between 1900 and 1910, was a Baptist Christian missionary to Jews in Bukovina. He was in England 1937-8. Any information about his subsequent life in England would be of interest.