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incorporating the Transactions of the
BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

EDITORIAL

(The index to Volume XIX will be distributed with the next issue.)

WITH this first issue of a new volume the editorship of the *Quarterly* changes hands and it is therefore an appropriate moment to record our gratitude to Dr. Morris West for the services which he has rendered to this publication. His varied abilities result in the fact that ever-increasing calls are made upon his time and indeed for our own society he has carried a double responsibility, having been secretary as well as editor. The secretaryship he will continue to hold and communications or enquiries other than those connected with the *Quarterly* should still be addressed to him. We value the work he has done and that which he will continue to do for the society.

This is a good opportunity to express our thanks to others who help with the *Quarterly*. Rev. A. Gilmore, whom we congratulate on his recent appointment as editor of The Carey Kingsgate Press, is our Review Editor. Revs. E. Clipsham and D. Sparkes give willing help with the compilation of the indices. This last is a chore the importance of which is readily acknowledged by anyone who wants to check a reference. What a boon it would be if we could issue comprehensive index volumes covering, first, the *Transactions* and then the *Quarterly* to date. A great deal of work would be involved and such an undertaking would also require special financial backing. Nevertheless it is something we must hope one day to accomplish. As learned journals multiply and the years of their

issue lengthen the task of searching back numbers for specific materials becomes heavier. Ideally perhaps every decade should see the publication of an overall index but while that Utopian suggestion awaits fulfilment we shall make it our endeavour to see that each single volume index is as complete and accurate as possible.

A feature of earlier issues of the *Quarterly* and also of the *Transactions* was the insertion of brief notes on matters germane to the work of the society. It is hoped to revive this idea. Information sometimes turns up which may not call for treatment in a full-length article but which may yet be of value to the study of Baptist history. Such items can easily be lost to view again, perhaps permanently, unless they find a place in a journal such as ours. We would ask our readers, if in doubt, to err on the safe side and send us an appropriate note, together with clear details as to the source of the information. All such submissions will be carefully considered for publication.

It is a pleasure to note the appearance of a short history of British Baptists* from the pen of D. M. Himbury, formerly tutor in Church history at the South Wales Baptist College, Cardiff, and now principal of the Baptist College, Melbourne, Australia. This book meets the need which has long existed for something on this subject of modest size and price, more than a pamphlet yet not a full-scale treatment. As such it will do good service among us. The cause of Christian education is being urged in the denomination today and in that general context there is a growing and needful concern for self-knowledge, both in regard to doctrine and history. Mr. Himbury's book is particularly good on the first two centuries and manifests his familiarity with not a little of the source material. It is to be hoped that the demands of his present appointment, especially with the possibilities of extension which would seem to follow from the news of a magnificent legacy in 1962, will not deprive us of further contributions in the field of Baptist history which is so strong an interest with him. His book is not of course intended as a major re-writing of the subject and that need still remains since W. T. Whitley's book, in its revised edition, was published thirty years ago, and A. C. Underwood's, rapidly approaching its twentieth year, was restricted to the English scene. Dr. R. Tudur Jones wrote a big new account of English Congregationalism for the 1662-1962 commemoration but it is not easy to visualize a comparable work on our own history until more has been done on individual associations and other aspects of our life.

Indeed so much detailed research awaits attention and there are so few to do it that our society ought surely to consider ways and

* D. M. Himbury, *British Baptists: A Short History*. Carey Kingsgate Press. 8s. 6d.

means of organizing work of this kind. At the very least some clearing house of information is needed concerning research projected and in progress. This would obviate the risk of duplication or overlapping and would assist university supervisors in different parts of the country.

A decision of the Baptist Union Council at its meeting in November last is likely to further the cause of Baptist history. It was agreed, subject to the completion of the Ter-Jubilee Fund, to offer the income from £15,000 to the Council of Regent's Park College, Oxford, towards the support of a Baptist Union Tutor, Lecturer or Fellow in Reformation, Free Church and Baptist history, provided it be agreed by the Council of the College that part of the duties of the person appointed shall be study in these fields for the benefit of the whole denomination and that freedom for this be provided. Regent's Park College at its meeting in September last appointed the Rev. Dr. B. R. White as tutor with responsibility for Church history, with special attention to Reformation, Baptist and Free Church history. Should the hopes regarding the Ter-Jubilee offer eventuate Dr. White would become the first Baptist Union tutor. It will be recalled that he addressed our last Annual General Meeting and he can be sure of the good wishes of the society as he embarks upon his new duties in Oxford.

JANUARY, 1963

ADVANCE NOTICE

The Annual General Meeting of the Historical Society will be held on Monday, 29th April. It is expected to take place at 4.30 p.m. in the Institute Hall of Westminster Chapel and that tea will precede the meeting.