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The BAPTIST QUARTERLY

The Journal of the Baptist Historical Society

VOLUME XXI

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Editorial

THE Annual General Meeting held on 3rd May during the Leeds Assembly was an encouraging occasion. The Rev. R. Hayden of Waterfoot, Lancs., communicated much of his own enthusiasm in an address on "William Staughton, theologian or opportunist?" The treasurer, though absent in the flesh was present in spirit and his report, read by the secretary, also struck an enthusiastic note for it proclaimed a balance of £80 in hand. This, it must be admitted, owed much to the receipt of a cheque from our publishers for trade sales covering two years instead of one. Nevertheless it has enabled us to clear the deficit brought forward from the previous year and to stand in the black rather than the red. It was also reported that to date we have in hand £95 towards the publication of the Cumulative Index. All this is extremely heartening for there are tasks the Society can and ought to undertake if the required funds are forthcoming.

Another announcement made at the meeting was also received with pleasure. Principal G. Henton Davies has made a donation to endow a lectureship on the following terms :

- (a) The lecture is to be named the "Henton Lecture".
- (b) It is to be given at meetings of the Historical Society.
- (c) It is to be given normally by a Baptist, a believer baptized by immersion on profession of faith.
- (d) The lecture is normally to be on a biographical or historical theme related to Baptists.

- (e) Should the Society cease to exist or the denomination lose its identity the entire capital sum and any accrued monies at the date of such events shall be transferred to Regent's Park College, Oxford, to maintain the lecture there.

It is hoped that the lecture will be published in the *Baptist Quarterly* or similar journal. Meanwhile we place on record the Society's cordial thanks to Dr. Davies for a gesture which will prove a further stimulus to our work.

In the course of the Annual Meeting thanks were also expressed to Rev. N. S. Moon for his work as Acting Librarian, and to the Rev. Alec Gilmore for his work as Review Editor for several years. The Editor will now be attending to reviews and since the library has now been amalgamated with the Baptist Union Library at Church House, the Rev. E. F. Clipsham has undertaken responsibility for it, together with the Minute secretaryship. The library at Church House and the Angus Library in Oxford probably represent the two main collections of Baptist materials in this country and enquiries may be addressed to Mr. Clipsham or to Dr. B. R. White of Regent's Park College, Oxford.

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It has been drawn to our attention that by some strange oversight no mention was made in this journal of a useful Baptist biography published in 1961 as a paperback by the Carey Kingsgate Press. This is *Farthing Rushlight: the story of Andrew Gifford 1700-84* by Principal L. G. Champion of Bristol. "Farthing Rushlight" was Gifford's own description of himself as a young man but, becoming as his modesty was, his story was well worth the telling. Dr. Champion has gone into the source materials with care and sympathetic insight, and he tells the story in an easy, almost conversational style. The result is a book which sheds a good deal of light not only on Gifford but on 18th century Baptist life generally.

Another paperback we are glad to mention is the new edition of our President's work on *The Free Church Tradition in the life of England*. Both the text and the footnotes show that this has been a careful revision and is not just a re-issue of the 3rd edition in a different format. Published by Hodder & Stoughton at 5s., this book, which has long since gained its place as a standard treatment of the subject, is plainly destined for an ever-widening sphere of usefulness.