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- 92 Hillell Schwartz, *op.cit.* p.111.
- 93 John A. Hostetler, *op.cit.*, p.183.
- 94 Robert L. Ramseyer, 'A Consideration of the Fruitfulness of Wallace's Concepts of the Revitalization Movement for Study of the Early Stages of the Biblical Anabaptists (Mennonite) Movement in Switzerland, Germany and the Low Countries between 1525 and 1560, *MQR* vol.44, April 1970, p.177.

DAVID F. TENNANT

SPURGEON DAY CONFERENCE

The Spurgeon Ter-Jubilee Day Conference, held at Histon Baptist Church, Cambridge, on Saturday 8th September 1984, was much enjoyed by the forty or so present. Society members from the area gathered with some from further afield to discover that popular mythology has not always done justice to the great man. Mr John Briggs of Keele University set Spurgeon, and 'Spurgeonism', in the wider denominational context of the period, finding his beliefs and passions were more in line with 19th century Baptist trends than has sometimes been suggested. The Revd M. K. Nicholls of Spurgeon's College presented Spurgeon as a teacher-pastor, providing Day and Sunday Schools for children, a range of adult evening classes, and developing the pastors training college which now bears his name. Both these papers should appear in due course in the *Quarterly*.

A coach trip in the afternoon took the party to Isleham Ferry, still a remote fenland spot - indeed, with less signs of man's activity than in the old pictures. The coach was able to get quite close, led through celery fields by the kind farmer and his wife, Mr and Mrs Bert Becket. As we walked the last quarter mile across a ploughed field, we reflected on the desire for believer's baptism which caused Spurgeon to walk eight or nine miles from Newmarket to be immersed in that reedy river. Then the party proceeded to Waterbeach, where Spurgeon had his first pastorate. There the Revd G. Woodham showed us communion plate given by Spurgeon and his New Park Street church.

In the evening a few more local folk joined the gathering for an illustrated survey of Spurgeon's life, given with affectionate enthusiasm by the Revd J. J. Brown. He had also mounted an exhibition which, together with stalls offering the Society's publications and a selection of Laurie Gage's second-hand books, filled any spare minutes.

The Baptist Historical Society Committee hopes to arrange further regional meetings in the future.

Meanwhile all who were present at Histon will want their warm appreciation expressed to all involved, especially the three lecturers, the Revd and Mrs Tony Barker of Histon for the church's splendid hospitality, and the Society Secretary, Revd Roger Hayden, for arranging the conference.

FAITH BOWERS