

Current Co-operative Studies and Research

The Education Department of the Co-operative Union and the Co-operative College have, of course, a long-established and varied service in staff education and training, and in member education and youth work. On the more advanced levels of the first, perhaps the three main reference points are:

1. The Education Department provides curricula, syllabuses, examinations and awards in both management, and secretaryship and accounting, leading in the first to the Diploma in Co-operative Management and in the second to the Diploma in Co-operative Secretaryship. Students prepare for these in local classes, by correspondence courses made available by the Department, and at the Co-operative College.
2. The College has 120 places, most of them taken up by sessional courses in social and co-operative studies (for a diploma awarded by the University of Nottingham), in co-operation overseas, mainly for the officers of government departments in the developing countries, and in management and secretaryship and accountancy, both for employees of co-operative societies and for direct entrants from universities and full-time courses in business studies. There is also a sequence throughout the year of medium-length courses of about six weeks for employees of some experience and probably some professional qualification, who have been earmarked for advancement in management responsibility. The remaining places at the College are taken up by a sequence of short intensive courses of one or two weeks, dealing with specialist subjects of co-operative management.
3. The Department and College also promote research in various ways: by the staff and students of the College; by sponsoring group projects—for example, the current preparation of a manual for co-operative management; and by association in particular projects with other agencies for example, in recent years with the Universities of Nottingham, Leeds and Keele.

There has been a developing contribution by universities and technical colleges over recent years. The universities and similar institutions, in particular the extra-mural departments of universities in the Northern, North-Western, and North-Eastern sections have arranged courses for co-operative managers and directors dealing with co-operative organisation and development. In the North-East, research has been undertaken by a group of co-operative officials under the direction of Mr. T. E. Stephenson and published in Co-operative College Paper "Aspects of Dividend".

COURSES IN PROSPECT FOR SESSION 1967/68

Some definitely arranged and some still under discussion.

North

Leeds University in association with Middlesbrough Society: a course on business efficiency with the accent on retail distribution for departmental managers and above.

Durham University Business School in association with Stockton Society: a course based on Harvard Business School Case Study method for departmental managers and above.

Durham University Business School in association with Co-operative Union Section: under discussion, a course on retail/wholesale relationships for departmental managers and above.

Municipal College of Commerce, Newcastle, in association with Co-operative Union Section: under discussion, a course based on Co-operative Union syllabus "Facing the Future", for society directors. Also, possibly at Stockton.

Yorkshire and Humberside

Leeds University in association with Co-operative Union Section: a study group on long range planning and corporate strategy for senior managers; a management development group on the broad principles, objectives and methods of co-operative management for managers.

Leeds College of Commerce in association with Co-operative Union Section: a third year course leading to the Diploma in Management Studies for managers.

Bradford University Business School in association with Co-operative Union Section: a course on distribution management (part of the M.Sc. programme in management studies) for graduates intending entering the distributive trades; a retail seminar in marketing for chief executive officers.

Hull and Sheffield Universities in association with Co-operative Union Section: a management development group is under discussion.

North-West

Lancaster University Department of Marketing in association with Co-operative Union Section: a course on marketing for chief officials and departmental managers.

Manchester University in association with Co-operative Union Section: two courses and a workshop for senior officials.

Scotland

Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow universities in association with Co-operative Union Section: a course on Co-operative Studies for Society directors.

South

Oxford University in association with Co-operative Union Section: a course on Co-operative management for chief officials and departmental managers.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Yorkshire and Humberside

Leeds University: Level of decision making in the board room. Mr. T. E. Stephenson.

Bradford University: Labour Relations in the Consumer Co-operative Movement. Mrs. J. Paterson.

North-West

Manchester University: Business Ratios in Co-operative Societies. Mr. J. Roper.

The Co-operative Movement in Sweden. Dr. A. Wilson.

Keele University: Democratic Participation in a Co-operative Society. Mr. J. Whitfield.

Information about research and courses in progress or in prospect will be welcomed and should be sent to the Secretary, Society for Co-operative Studies, Stanford Hall, Loughborough, Leicestershire.