

Society News and Notes

The Society held its 5th Annual General Meeting and Conference at the Co-operative College. This issue of the *Bulletin* contains a report of this meeting and of the discussion on the two papers presented.

Copies for Directors

The National Officers at a meeting on 9th May reviewed the discussion on the future of the Society and will be returning to the various issues at their June meeting. In the meantime it has been agreed that societies in membership of the Society should be offered for one year enough copies of the *Bulletin* to permit a distribution to all members of their Boards of Directors, commencing with this issue. Societies who wish to take up this offer are asked to provide the names and addresses of the individual members so that the distribution can be made directly. A form is enclosed for this purpose.

AGM and Conference 1973

Members will wish to note that the Conference in 1973 is to be held at the Co-operative College, Stanford Hall, on 27th/28th April, 1973.

Subscriptions for 1972/73

Subscriptions for 1972/73 are now due. A further copy of the renewal application form is enclosed with this issue of the 'Bulletin' and members who have not yet returned the form to the Secretary are asked to do so as soon as possible.

Reports from the Regions

North

Joint Convenors:

DR. J. STEVENSON, PH.D., IUR.D., B.A.(HONS.),
Principal, Monkwearmouth College of Further Education.

MR. G. W. BIRLESON,
Member Relations Officer, North Eastern Co-operative Society.

The Branch met on 11th May, 1972 when Mr. N. Leivers, Training Manager, North Eastern Co-operative Society Ltd., introduced the subject of "Staff Training in a Regional Society". Mr. Leivers covered very comprehensively the problems which had confronted the new Regional Society in terms of the many anomalies which had existed within the original 33 individual Societies in Staff Training activities or in many cases the complete lack thereof. He went on to explain in great detail the present structure within the Personnel Services Division for dealing effectively throughout all levels of the organisation with Staff Training.

A spirited discussion followed and many useful points emerged.

North Western

Joint Convenors:

MR. FRANK BRUCKSHAW.

MR. ROY GARRATT (Acting),
Librarian, Co-operative Union.

Unhappily, the April meeting of the branch had to be cancelled because of negligible attendance. This was disappointing for the speaker who had gone to considerable trouble in preparing his contribution to the current sessional theme—"The Co-operative Movement: the Prospects for Survival".

There is not likely now to be another meeting before September but in the meantime a circular letter will be sent to branch members to ascertain their wishes on the frequency of meetings and the suitability of the present venue and times of meetings.

Scotland

Joint Convenors:

DR. T. F. CARBERY, M.SC.(ECON.), D.P.A.,
Senior Lecturer, Department of Commerce,
University of Strathclyde.

MR. G. R. GAY, J.P.,
President, St. Cuthbert's Co-operative Association.

There has been little recordable branch activity in Scotland since the last report.

However, Mr. F. Boggis of Strathclyde University, arising from his attendance at the National A.G.M., has suggested that the branch might initiate some research into "Manpower Planning in the Co-operative Movement", and this suggestion is being considered.

Many members have attended meetings of P.A.C.E. (Public and Co-operative Enterprise) on (a) Consumer Consultative Committees in the Nationalised Industries, and (b) Banking and Finance in the Public Sector.

Western

Joint Convenors:

MR. G. I. LEWIS,
Extra-Mural Department,
University College of Swansea.

MR. W. L. G. EVANS,
Chief Executive Officer,
Ynysybwll Industrial Co-operative Society Ltd.

The Branch held its last meeting in April when the material submitted in respect of the Essay Competition on the theme "The Co-operative Movement in the 21st Century" was discussed. All entries, having been adjudicated, were dispatched to members for detailed consideration at a later meeting. Other items concerned included a report of the Annual General Meeting of the Conference and the future of the Society locally.

Yorkshire and Humberside

Joint Convenors:

MR. T. E. STEPHENSON, B.A. (DUNELM)
Department of Management Studies,
University of Leeds,

MR. S. P. CLARKE, C.S.D.,
Secretary and Chief Executive Officer,
West Yorkshire Co-operative Society.

The mainstay of this Region continues to be the useful weekly meeting of senior Co-operative officials from several West Riding societies, held at Leeds University under the leadership of Mr. T. E. Stephenson. The clear success of this weekly meeting serves to ensure that it will be maintained for a long time to come.

In addition, the convenors are now carefully considering what possibilities there are for making use of grants being made available by the Society at national level.