

## Society News and Notes

First of all a greeting of both farewell and hail in the editorial room. Mr. J. R. Hammond has had to withdraw from the Joint Editorship and we thank him warmly for all that he has done. His place has been taken by Dr. T. F. Carbery, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Economics at Strathclyde, who has, of course, been active in the Society since it was formed and served as its Chairman in 1969/70. The other Joint Editor readily acknowledges that if things get better this will be due to the entry of Dr. Carbery and his success in developing the good work of Mr. Hammond; and if they get worse or stay the same, this will be due to the retention of Mr. Marshall.

### **Annual General Meeting and Conference**

We are able to confirm the advance notice that this will be held at the Co-operative College, Stanford Hall, on 27th/28th April, 1973; the inclusive charge will be £4.50; please keep the date free and look out for further details of the programme.

### **Research on Capital Resources**

The enquiry into the Co-operative Movement's use of its capital resources initiated by the Central Executive of the Co-operative Union following the 1972 Congress will not be the only item of research in that field.

#### **AT STRATHCLYDE**

Almost coincidentally the University of Strathclyde has embarked on a similar project. The work, which will be supervised by Professor Alan Tait of the University's Department of Economics, will be mainly undertaken by Mrs. Pamela T. Wanless, who was recently appointed a Research Fellow. The work is being financed by the money from the S.C.W.S. scholarship granted to the University by the Society at the time of its centenary.

Mrs. Wanless read Economics at York from which University she graduated with a First, this year. She was the only 'First' of her class of eighty. The basic approach of her research will be on the attitudes of various business organisations to the treatment of capital in the inflationary conditions experienced in recent years. It would appear that much of the information provided by companies and other business organisations on this subject is not as valid as it might be.

Once the general situation has been determined Mrs. Wanless and Professor Tait will 'move in' and examine the situation prevailing within the S.C.W.S. in order to see how it compares with the apparent norm. In particular they will be looking at how the S.C.W.S. deploys its capital and to what extent sources of co-operative capital have changed in the post war years.

#### AND AT LOUGHBOROUGH

The project at Loughborough University of Technology which appointed a Senior Research Fellow to examine the long-term problems of financing Co-operative retail societies in times of inflation has come to a stop or at least changed down in gear through the resignation of the Fellow. He is preparing a report outlining his impressions as far as the investigation had gone: and in particular two supporting pieces of research in the Ipswich and the Birmingham Societies have been written up in more detail. This information is being made available to the capital resources study group of the Co-operative Union, and the University and the College are considering whether anything can be done to carry the project to any fulfilment.

#### **West Midlands' Group of the Society**

A West Midlands' group of the Society for Co-operative Studies was formed at an inaugural meeting at Fircroft College, Birmingham, on October 18th at which both academic and co-operative circles in the area were well represented. Mr. A. J. Corfield, Principal of Fircroft College, acted as chairman and Mr. D. C. Mordaunt agreed to act as convenor for the group, with Mr. S. Martin of the Co-operative Union as Secretary. Three discussion papers were presented and considered fully, then the group decided to commence operations by conducting a survey of the information published by retail societies in the area for the benefit of members.

# Reports from the Regions

## **Midland**

### *Joint Convenors:*

MR. M. GIBSON,  
Department of Economics,  
University of Leicester.

MR. LLOYD A. HARRISON, C.S.D.,  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Greater Nottingham Co-operative Society.

A small group of enthusiasts have formed a group meeting in Birmingham based upon the West Midland area. Mr. D. C. Mordaunt has been responsible for the initiative and acts as convenor with Mr. A. J. Corfield (Principal of Fircroft College) as its chairman. Areas of future study have been determined and a further meeting has been fixed for the end of November.

## **North**

### *Joint Convenors:*

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

MR. W. WILSON,  
Member Relations Officer, North Eastern Co-operative Society Ltd.

There have been no activities since the issue of the previous *Bulletin* but Mrs. Mary Mellor, BSc., is presently engaged on a research project which it is hoped will be ready for presentation to the Branch Meeting in February/March 1973.

The theme is "The Role of the Auxiliaries within the North Eastern Co-operative Society Ltd." Two types of questionnaires are being distributed, one to Guild Branch Secretaries and the other to Guild Members and it is anticipated that the resulting information will prove not only to have academic interest but will be of practical value both to Guilds and the Member Relations and Education Committee of the North Eastern Co-operative Society Ltd.

## **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 regular meeting of senior officials at Leeds University, under the guidance of Mr. T. E. Stephenson, has resumed its activities for yet another academic

year. It is evident that this group will again be a thriving and useful one. The convenors and secretary are considering further initiatives to be made in the Region.

## **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.

Further to the mention in *Bulletin No. 16* of Mr. F. D. Boggis, Strathclyde University, suggesting that the Branch might initiate some research into "Manpower Planning in the Co-operative Movement", permission has since been given for a small Research Grant to be available. Mr. Boggis has been in contact with Paisley Co-operative Manufacturing Society and the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society both of whom expressed willingness to co-operate.

Mr. Boggis has just completed, in collaboration with Cardiff University, a research project on "Co-operative Co-Partnership".

A successful joint meeting with P.A.C.E. (Public and Co-operative Enterprises) on V.A.T. was held. The Speaker was Professor A. Tait, the Strathclyde University expert on National and Local Government Taxation.

To keep in line with the National Consumer Conference the Branch, in association with the Strathclyde University Department of Marketing, is holding an eight weeks' Course "Consumer Affairs—an Appraisal", which will be staffed by well known experts in this field (see below). Plans are also proceeding for a Consumer Course to be organised in association with the Edinburgh University Extra-Mural Department and the East of Scotland Co-operative District Council.