

Co-operation in the 1980'sFOREWORD

The opening of the decade has offered an opportunity widely accepted for forecasts and advice for the ten years ahead and Co-operators have joined in. For example, the Co-operative Union is planning for Congress 1980 a publication under much the same title as our own and we look forward to it. However, we have maintained confidently enough our earlier project for various contributors to set down their expectations of conditions in the 80's and the main guidelines they would urge the Co-operative Movement to follow.

Bert Oram, with his view from the C.D.A., offers a conspectus of the various forms of Co-operation and examines the prospects for their development.

More directly on consumer Co-operation, John Hughes brings up-to-date the analysis he made so notably in Bulletin 16 in 1972 "A Perspective for the 1970's"; Ron Edmondson and Lloyd Harrison make their observations from recent experience, on various areas and on many levels of Co-operative organisation; and Ron Byron and Frank Doherty write out of their current wholesale and retail involvement.

It should be noted that the pieces were written over the period November 1979-January 1980. And if we add that Mr. Edmondson's was the first to be prepared, that is not so much to praise his expedition as to acknowledge that some of his general forecasts have been realised earlier than

he expected - or perhaps wanted.

We are grateful to all the authors for their positive contribution to the discussion which the Movement needs to undertake and which the Union seeks to promote.

February 1980

R.L.M.