

Reports from the Regions

It is only a short while since the issue of our last Bulletin and there is not so much new to report. Nevertheless some meetings have taken place and others are planned for the future months as set out below:

Midland

Acting Joint Conveners:

MR. C. S. NUTTALL, B.A.,
Staff Tutor in Economics, Department of Extra-Mural Studies,
University of Birmingham.

MR. LLOYD A. HARRISON, C.S.D.
Managing Secretary,
Nottingham Co-operative Society.

At the meeting held on 25th May, Mr. E. P. Pritchard of the Extra-Mural Department of the University of Birmingham submitted for discussion a short outline on "Co-operators and Democracy". The questions he raised resulted in a lengthy discussion, which will be continued at the next meeting to be held on 28th September at Union Street, Leicester.

North

Acting Joint Conveners:

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

MR. W. MARTIN REED, C.S.D.,
Secretary and Chief Executive Officer,
Newcastle Co-operative Society.

Outlining the Co-operative Movement past and present, Mr. J. W. Charlton, C.S.D., A.I.A.C., Deputy Executive Officer, Newcastle Co-operative Society, introduced the subject, "The Future of Co-operative Democracy", at the branch meeting held on 9th May, and a lengthy discussion followed. A report is to be submitted later on questionnaires on member participation which have been sent to a number of societies in the region.

"Career prospects within Northern Co-operative Societies" is the subject for the next meeting to be held towards the end of September or beginning of October; Dr. J. Stevenson and Mr. J. Lister are preparing a questionnaire for distribution to northern societies.

Yorkshire and Humberside

Acting Joint Conveners:

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,
Bradford Co-operative Society.

Consideration is being given to further developments.

North-West

Joint Conveners:

MR. J. F. H. ROPER, M.A.,
Faculty of Economic and Social Studies,
University of Manchester.

MR. F. BRUCKSHAW,
Editor,
Co-operative News.

The third meeting, with Mr. F. Bruckshaw in the chair, was held on 26th April in Manchester University. Mr. J. S. Whitfield of Keele University spoke on findings reached from his study of democratic control in Burslem Society; he presented statistics relating to the differing degrees of participation between the ordinary member and the activist and examined questions of apathy, recruitment and ideology. A full discussion followed.

The next meeting was held on 24th May when Dr. A. Wilson led a discussion on "The Future of Co-operative Democracy" for which a study paper was distributed to members.

Scotland

Acting Joint Conveners:

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.

Consideration is being given to further developments.

South

Joint Conveners:

MR. PETER SHEA, B.Sc.
Senior Lecturer in Educational Psychology,
Hockerill College of Education.

(A second appointment is to be made.)

A lively discussion on co-operative democracy took place on 28th March at the College for the Distributive Trades and will be continued at the next meeting on 20th June. The distribution to societies of questionnaires on electoral procedure, etc., was recommended to further the studies in local democracy.

South-West

It is hoped shortly to appoint two acting joint conveners.

West

Acting Joint Conveners:

MR. W. E. JENKINS,
Extra-Mural Department,
University of Swansea.

MR. M. E. MORGAN,
Group General Manager,
Swansea C.R.S.

The working body, formed with five representatives from co-operative and academic sources in addition to the three officers, held its first meeting on 13th May. Following considerable discussion upon one of the agenda items, "Problems of Co-operative Capital", introduced by the Sectional Secretary, Co-operative Union Ltd., it was felt that the urgency of the problem in the Western Section justified further examination.

The officers were instructed to draft further information to be considered at its next meeting in July by the working body which is now to be enlarged to include greater representation from academic and co-operative interests. Following the next meeting an approach will be made to all societies in the Section for their support in obtaining all relevant information upon capital for research purposes. The possibilities of gaining facilities for this research at Swansea University were examined and it was agreed that the end product could form the basis for a series of management seminars at Swansea upon the theme of capitalisation.