

Reports from the Regions

Reports from the regions of activity since the last issue of the *Bulletin* are given below:

Metropolitan and South

Joint Convenors:

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

MR. JOHN WALKER,
Assistant General Manager,
Luton Industrial Co-operative Society.

The quarterly meeting held in October was addressed by Mr. M. H. Lloyd-Davies, Vice-Chairman and Partners' Counsellor of the John Lewis Partnership. The general structure of the John Lewis Partnership was fully examined, with particular reference to means of communication and the accountability of management. Comparisons were made with the Co-operative Movement in respect of democratic control and trading efficiency.

Discussion papers prepared by members so far have included "District Committees in a Regional Society" by D. Hutton, "Co-operative Democracy" by P. Derrick, "The Regional Plan and Democracy in the main Co-operatives" by B. Le Bargy and "The Regional Plan and Political Activity" by T. E. Graham.

Midland

Joint Convenors:

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.

The branch met in Leicester on 28th September when a paper on "Democracy and Competition in Consumer Co-operatives" was presented by Mr. E. P. Pritchard. This stimulated lively discussion. It was agreed that copies of discussion papers would be forwarded to societies in the region.

A further meeting was held in Nottingham on 18th January, when the branch was addressed by Mr. M. Gibson of the University of Leicester on "In competition for market share—what difference is there between Co-operative and capitalist undertakings?"

North

Joint Convenors:

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.

Difficulties have been experienced with recruitment of new members but every attempt has been made to encourage interest. It is hoped to organise a meeting of the Northern branch shortly.

A questionnaire on "Junior Recruitment", compiled by Dr. J. Stevenson—Joint Convenor, Northern Branch of the Society for Co-operative Studies, and Principal of Monkwearmouth Technical College—and Mr. J. Lister, a lecturer at the College, has been distributed to all Societies in the Northern Section.

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,
Bradford Co-operative Society.

It was intended to hold a meeting in September with a speaker from the Industrial Reorganisation Corporation on "Problems of Mergers". In the event this meeting was not held as the I.R.C. were unable to make a study of the Regional Plan in the time available. A meeting will be held early in 1969 when the speaker will be Mr. T. E. Stephenson on "Democracy in Regional Societies".

North-West

Joint Convenors:

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

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

The May and September meetings of the Society were devoted to an examination of the paper by Dr. Alex Wilson on "The National Structure of the Movement". The November meeting, held at Manchester University, was addressed by Mr. Desmond Flanagan, Librarian of the Co-operative Union, on "Co-operative Journalism and Communications". Mr. Flanagan's paper included examples of Co-operative journalism from many overseas countries.

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.

The Wine and Cheese "Conversazione" held during September proved a most enjoyable and successful venture. The company, consisting of I.C.A. delegates, University lecturers, tutors from Technical Colleges, S.C.W.S. representatives, and Co-operators from both lay and professional service totalled 120. One result was an increase in membership.

The members held a Sunday Coffee Morning in November at which Mr. Laurie Pavitt, M.P., opened a discussion on "The Co-operative Movement and Taxation."

A general discussion by members on "The Future of Co-operative Democracy" was held in November in the Strathclyde University Staff Club. Arising from this it was agreed to hold a further meeting at which selected members would present their views on some aspect of Co-operative Democracy.

South-West

Contacts with universities are proceeding and it is hoped shortly to appoint two acting joint convenors.

West

Joint Convenors:

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

MR. C. P. JONES,
Managing Secretary,
Tredegar Industrial and Provident Co-operative Society.

The Working Party is still engaged on the question of Capital in the Western region and a document on Investment Trends has been drafted for presentation to the next meeting in January 1969. It is then proposed to prepare a final paper covering the discussions to date for presentation to a full meeting of the branch later in the year.