

Editorial Note

The Society for Co-operative Studies has held its second Annual General Meeting and Conference: an enjoyable and successful event amid the comfortable surroundings of St. Anselm Hall at the University of Manchester.

This issue of the *Bulletin* reports this meeting and outlines the proposed lines of development for activity to be undertaken by the Society, particularly in the regions, which the National Officers envisaged in their review of the A.G.M. **These include a scheme for research grants, for which details are given on page 18.**

Subscriptions for 1969-70

Subscriptions to the Society for 1969-70 are now due. A letter from the Secretary and Treasurer accompanies this *Bulletin*. We hope you will respond speedily and willingly to his request.

We are also making a wide approach to many other organisations to invite them into membership: if that distribution also comes to you, please forgive the overlap.

Reports from the Regions

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

Metropolitan and South

Joint Convenors:

MR. W. J. PHILPOTT, B.SC.(ECON), M.B.I.M.,

Head of the Department of Management and Merchandising,
College for the Distributive Trades.

MR. JOHN WALKER,

Assistant General Manager,
Luton Industrial Co-operative Society.

Meetings were held in January and March when the review of discussion papers submitted by members continued. Special attention was given to papers on Co-operative democracy, the District Committee structure in the London society, the Co-operative Party, and the implications of the Regional Plan in Kent.

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.,

Chief Executive Officer,
Greater Nottingham Co-operative Society Ltd.

Walsall Society Education Department was host to the April meeting of the Society. The controversial subject of increasing membership was discussed and it was decided to examine the possibility of promoting later in the year a one day school to which would be invited senior officials, Boards of Directors, Education Committee members and others. The theme of the meeting to be Co-operative democracy.

As the numbers in attendance were low an open forum was held under the heading "Democracy in Regional Societies". This was based on the guide lines for discussion posed by the Education Executive Working Party on this subject.

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.

A meeting is to be held in June when Mr. T. E. Stephenson will present a paper on "Democracy and Regional Societies". In the meantime contacts with Universities and Colleges are being usefully developed.

North-West

Joint Convenors:

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

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

The January meeting of the Society was addressed by Mr. S. Stott, Chief Executive Officer of the Liverpool Co-operative Society, who took as his theme "Co-operative Capital". A lively discussion followed Mr. Stott's contribution.

At the March meeting Messrs. D. G. Hopwood and D. Birch of Manchester College of Commerce presented some aspects of their research on "Capital Expenditure Decisions in Retail Co-operatives". Although the attendance was smaller than at previous meetings the evening proved both informative and interesting.

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.

Two meetings have been held since the last report. The first was addressed by Mr. Bernard Rhodes who spoke on "The Future of the Co-operative Movement". The second meeting was devoted to an examination of "Democracy in the Co-operative Movement". Discussion papers were submitted by Messrs. J. Black, R. Bluer and G. Gay.

West

For personal reasons both convenors have felt obliged to resign and in these circumstances no meetings have taken place since the previous *Bulletin*. Steps are being taken to appoint fresh convenors and a meeting of the Society is being planned for June.

International Note

The Sixth International Co-operative Scientific Congress will be held this year from the 22nd/25th September in Giessen, a university town a short train ride from Frankfurt/Main in Western Germany. The host organisation is the Institute for Rural Co-operation of the Justus-Liebig University and the congress arrangements are being made under the supervision of Professor Dr. Carl Meimberg, Director of the Institute. The general theme of the congress will be "Co-operatives in Economic Growth" for which three basic papers, dealing with the changing functions of Co-operative Movements in industrialised market economies, socialist economies and the newly-developing regions respectively, will be submitted for discussion in working parties and in plenary sittings. The formal meetings will be supplemented by visits to Co-operative undertakings in the region.

It may be worth recalling that the first of these international gatherings of university teachers, having a scientific interest in economic and social aspects of Co-operation, with leading Co-operative officials from various countries, seeking help in the solution of their practical problems, was held at Münster in Westphalia in 1954. The Co-operative Union was then represented by John A. Hough, its Research Officer. The second was held at Erlangen in Bavaria in 1957 and was attended by Arnold Bonner. In the course of time the organisation of the congresses has been perfected and an excellent interpretation service in three languages is provided. A full report of the proceedings is subsequently published in different language versions by the German Co-operative review "Zeitschrift für das gesamte Genossenschaftswesen".

W.P.W.