

Society News and Notes

A reminder

A letter accompanied the June BULLETIN requesting payment of subscriptions for 1969-70 and we are grateful to all those who have responded. If you have not yet renewed your subscription, you should have, or be getting shortly, a persuasive reminder: please respond!

For Co-operative Studies : The Society and the College

The Society and the Co-operative College have always exchanged interest, and congratulations from the first to the second in its Golden Jubilee Year 1969 may be confidently assumed. A brochure issued by the College* traces its history since 1919 (when a President of the Society, Mr. W. P. Watkins, was one of its first ten students) and carries the story forward to the expansion and diversification of the College programme which has been achieved at Stanford Hall. Over that record the tasks to which the College has been addressed have been fairly uniformly maintained: "to help in the education and training of the professional leadership of the Movement; to contribute also to the equipment of its democratic leadership; to assemble a range of experience which fellow Co-operators from other countries will find value in examining and relating to their needs; and to share in research which will illumine not only the past of the Movement but also its future."

These are indeed the final words of the brochure—and the last commitment accommodates an interesting possibility of even closer links between the Society and the College. The Jubilee has (inevitably) been accompanied by an appeal for contributions to a College Endowment Fund. This appeal has been to Co-operative societies, to Co-operative education committees and also to a wide range of individuals. Included within the purpose of the Endowment Fund is the promotion of research and the acknowledgment that the planning and the institution of that research should be undertaken in consultation with the Society for Co-operative Studies. The general aim of such a project will be to identify and analyse important conditions which will surround the Movement in five or ten years' time and to elicit the guidelines of response which the Movement ought to be making to such change. This, of course, is a necessity for the success of the Movement—and already with many responses to the appeal still to come in the sum of £2,394 in gifts and annual covenants of £763 for seven years has been assured. In particular, substantial further contributions from Co-operative national federations are assured.

Grants for Research

The Society's scheme of research grants, intimated in the last *Bulletin*, is getting under way.

**Price 3/6 post free from the College, Stanford Hall, Loughborough, Leics.*

A grant has been made of £15 to Mr. D. Smythe for his research into Member Participation in Co-operative Societies in Western Europe, and of £30 to Messrs Hopwood and Birch for their research on Capital Investments in Large Retail Co-operative Societies.

International Congress

Mr. W. P. Watkins represented the Society at the 6th International Congress of Co-operative Science at Giessen, and will be making a full report later.

Research into Member Participation

The Midland Co-operative Educational Centre Trust has offered £700 to the Co-operative College to promote a project in association with Loughborough University of Technology which has led to the appointment of a post-graduate research worker into member participation in a selected Co-operative society.