

THE
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Society Notes

Home and overseas, consumer Co-operation and other forms, economic efficiency and democratic values – the mixture, we hope, in the contents of Journal 70 is about right. Included are the report of the annual conference of the Society, and the minutes of its A.G.M. which record the adoption of new subscription rates from year 1991-2. The case for these was elaborated in Journal 69 in Society Notes and in the Chairman's Report for 1989-90.

Within this rich and agreeable variety, I offer a fraternal welcome to the column from my fellow – editor Professor Carbery, the first of an occasional series. And I would add an invitation. In this Journal some of the spaces at the end of articles have been inhabited by short quotations which have taken my fancy and which I have recorded in notebooks over the years. I would be grateful to readers who send me such items for a store-house for the future – of direct Co-operative relevance or not and accompanied, more uniformly than I have achieved, by a note of their sources.

"Wider Still and Wider"

We reported to the AGM an ambition which was encouraged strongly by a suggestion from Will Watkins – that ways should be found of distributing much more widely in the consumer Movement at least some of the articles in the Journal. The particular reference was to the annual series "Reflections – and Projections" on the Movements' retail trade figures, contributed by experts of varied experience and perspectives – the last was published in Journal 69. Such analyses and assessments should be presented, for example, to officials and directors across the full range of the Movement and with the supportive interest of the Co-operative Union we are exploring how that can best be done.

Of similar ambition, publicity for the Journal and Society is being addressed to members of the National Association of Co-operative Officials and of the Institute of Co-operative Directors – and the help of both these organisations is much appreciated.

Journal 71 should be published in May 1991 and we hope to give special attention to education in the consumer Movement over the last decade or so of initiative and development and to the progress of the Co-operative Liaison Group and its significance for "co-operation between Co-operatives".

November 1990

R.L.M.