

Editorial

This issue of the Journal focuses on the Co-operative College, Stanford Hall, providing both a celebration of its fifty year history and analysis of the College's future role. We are fortunate in having two substantial historical articles by Bob Marshall and Len Burch which between them cover the entire fifty-year period; these articles ought to provide a 'base line' for further discussion of the past, present and future role of the College. Mervyn Wilson, writing on behalf of the College, then provides description and analysis of the current business plan, looking into a far from certain future. Ted Graham and Hughie Todner write about their experience of the last fifty years and also look into that uncertain future, but from a more personal perspective. Nimal Vijayarathna provides a mainly descriptive analysis of the work of Co-operative colleges in developing countries, but Bob Briscoe, out of his experience in Fiji, questions the whole rationale of Co-operative education through colleges, in an argument which we hope will provoke a lively debate. Other articles, notably Mervyn Wilson on 'the future of Co-operative education', Peter Davis on 'Facilitating Co-operative management development' and John Corina, on 'Loughborough and Lady Byron', will have to wait until the next issue.

Needless to say, the editor is grateful to contributors for working to a tight deadline to produce articles on a topic close to the hearts of British co-operators, and one which, since the threatened closure of the College last year, has become even more sensitive. The next issue of the Journal will be in a new format, and will be organised in four sections: short articles of around 2000 words dealing with practical themes; longer, refereed articles dealing with subjects in more depth; letters to the editor; and a review section. Readers are encouraged to respond to the views expressed in this issue on the UK Co-operative College and on related subjects of Co-operative education and training, by writing letters to the editor. Those tempted to go further and offer an article should note the new 'notes to contributors' printed at the back of this issue.

RJB January 1996