

## Editorial Notes.

The Seventh Baptist World Congress was held according to plan in Copenhagen from July 29th—which would have been Dr. Rushbrooke's seventy-seventh birthday, had he lived—to August 3rd. The number of delegates who registered their arrival were in the neighbourhood of five thousand, and between forty and fifty lands were represented. Danish Baptists number only seven thousand in all, of whom thirteen hundred are in Copenhagen. To arrange for so large a Congress strained their resources to the utmost, but they grappled valiantly with the problems involved and were generously helped by their fellow-countrymen. The official record of the proceedings, with the full text of the more important addresses, will be published as soon as possible by the Kingsgate Press. Here we confine ourselves to comment on one or two special matters.

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Dr. Rushbrooke was missed even more than had been expected. Particularly during the opening days, the Congress seemed like a ship without a captain and with no one able to take even temporary command. The danger of shipwreck, or perhaps of mutiny, seemed very real. But before long the sense of kinship and fellowship, which has always been strong among Baptists, and a deepening realisation of the need of an organisation such as the Alliance for the tasks and opportunities that are now before Baptists, brought a new direction, discipline and determination. The revised Constitution, which might have caused long and acrimonious debate, was accepted unanimously. In this connection a special word of thanks is due to Dr. Ellis Fuller, of Louisville, and Mr. H. L. Taylor, of Bristol. The delicate matters entrusted to the Nominating Committee were wisely dealt with under the able chairmanship of Dr. Theodore Adams, of the Southern Baptist Convention. Dr. C. Oscar Johnson, of St. Louis, a man known and trusted by all the Baptist Conventions of the United States, becomes President and, at his own suggestion, the next Congress will meet, if possible, in three years' time. By then the arrangements for a proper Alliance budget and a new and enlarged secretariat will have been carried through, and in these matters the lead that Dr. Johnson himself can give will be invaluable.

For another year at least Dr. W. O. Lewis continues as General Secretary with his unique knowledge of Europe and the Alliance, and his patience and shrewdness. Apart from the necessary organisational changes that have to be made there are three immediate tasks to be undertaken: first, relief and reconstruction, both in Europe and the Far East, secondly, a vigilant and vigorous championship of the cause of religious freedom, and, thirdly, co-operation in evangelism. The Alliance seemed to find itself again in the procession on Sunday afternoon and the open air demonstration which followed in the Stadion. The hundreds of uniformed Danish Baptist youth who led the procession were a reminder of the vast human resources and potentialities of a church which has thirteen or fourteen million members scattered in every continent and a community three or four times as large.

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The Conference on the study of Baptist history and principles drew more than two hundred and fifty of the delegates and proved to be one of the most successful and valuable of the sectional meetings. We reproduce here the important recommendation that was unanimously adopted:—

That this Conference, convinced of the great importance of the study of Baptist history and principles and their adequate, scholarly and popular presentation, urges upon the Executive Committee of the Baptist World Alliance that steps be taken to promote co-operation between Baptist scholars and writers in all lands with a view to the preparation as soon as possible of:—

1. an authoritative Baptist bibliography, listing the most important works dealing with Baptist history and principle in different lands
2. a comprehensive history of the Baptist movement since the Reformation
3. an international Baptist Encyclopedia to take the place of that issued by Cathcart in 1881.

Further, this meeting calls upon all national Baptist movements to encourage by all possible means the preservation, study and writing of Baptist history.

Here are projects which it will take a generation to complete. But they are greatly needed, and it is good to have had such a programme so boldly put forward. Only with the help of the Alliance can these enterprises be properly undertaken. The bibliographical material contained in the speeches to the Conference of the Rev. K. A. Modén, of Sweden, and Dr. Johannes Mundhenk, of Germany, made it clear how much there is to be

gained by personal contact and collaboration. The members of our own Baptist Historical Society will follow with close interest developments in this field, and have, we believe, an important part to play.

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In 1945 the Baptist Convention of Ontario and Quebec appointed a strong Commission to prepare "a fresh statement of our Baptist beliefs in the language of today." It has worked under the chairmanship of Chancellor G. P. Gilmour of McMaster University and recently issued an interim statement for study and discussion entitled "The Baptist Position." The statement is in six sections: (1) The Introduction, (2) The Baptist Position, (3) Elements of Strength and Weakness, (4) A Glossary of Terms, (5) Topics for Discussion, and (6) Bibliography. Could not one of our denominational presses arrange either to sell or to reprint the statement that British Baptists may share with their Canadian brethren in this important piece of corporate study?

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Considerable attention has recently been focused on the Sabbath-Keeping Baptist Church which met at Mill Yard, Leman Street, Goodman's Fields, for nearly two hundred years and which still continues in existence, meeting now for worship on the premises of the Upper Holloway Baptist Church. The Rev. F. H. Amphlett Micklewright, of the Unitarian Historical Society, contributed to *Notes and Queries*, Vol. cxc, pp. 95, 137, 161 and 185; Vol. cxci, p. 76 a series of notes on the Mill Yard community. These were supplemented in Vol. cxci, p. 261 by an article by the editor of the *Baptist Quarterly* describing a booklet published in 1869 by W. H. Black, pastor of the Mill Yard church, a copy of which is in the Angus Library of Regent's Park College. Some years ago one of the oldest Minute Books of the Church was taken across the Atlantic to the United States where there are a considerable number of Sabbath-Keeping Baptists. We are glad to print an article by Dr. W. T. Whitley, the President of the Baptist Historical Society, dealing with those in England who have been of this persuasion. Further research may bring other interesting facts to light. Mr. Payne has already identified Daniel Noble, who was elder and minister at Mill Yard till his death in 1783, with the schoolmaster for whom Tom Paine acted as usher in 1766. The details of this interesting discovery were set out in a letter to the *Times Literary Supplement* of May 31st, 1947.

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We are glad to hear that a *Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas* has been formed and that it has successfully held its

first General Meeting. In 1917, during the first World War, the Society of Old Testament Study was founded and for thirty years it has rendered most important service in promoting and co-ordinating Old Testament study. A similar Society for the field of New Testament study has long been needed. We wish we could anticipate that Baptist scholars would take as large a share in it as they have in the S.O.T.S. It is, however, some satisfaction that the first secretary is a former Baptist Union Scholar, Dr. G. H. Boobyer, now a member of the Society of Friends. At the first meeting of the S.N.T.S., Dr. A. E. J. Rawlinson, the Bishop of Derby, read a paper on "Christian Initiation in the New Testament," which has now been published by the S.P.C.K. as a pamphlet (price 1/-). It is an important contribution to the current discussion of the relation of baptism and confirmation. In this connection we are also glad to see that the Tyndale New Testament Lecture for 1946 has been published (The Tyndale Press, 2/6). It is by Principal P. W. Evans. The title, *Sacraments in the New Testament* is somewhat misleading, even though it is qualified by the phrase "with special reference to baptism." The lecture consists in a careful and valuable discussion of the authenticity of Matthew XXVIII, 19. Another Baptist contribution in this field which should not be overlooked by scholars is *Den Kristne Daab* by Principal Johannes Nørgaard, of the Danish Baptist Seminary at Tølløse (Dansk Baptist-Forlag, 1944, 5 kr). Of particular importance is its examination of the teaching regarding baptism of Luther and other Reformers.

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The opening sentence of the first paragraph on page 180 of our last issue should read as follows: "There is obvious force in this point, though one would expect Hoskyns to give more consideration to the fact that there is a deceptive simplicity of diction in the Fourth Gospel, which frequently conceals the difficulty of its conceptions, while rendering it very accessible to popular devotional use."