

- ⁴⁶ *Register of Students*, Spurgeon's College, London.
⁴⁷ *C. H. Spurgeon's Autobiography*, 1890, vol. IV, p. 332.
⁵⁰ *Birth certificate*, BX 874437, 28th July, 1891, West Bromwich..
⁵¹ *Death certificate*, DX 172119, 30th March, 1962, Kensington, London.
⁵² W. P. Spalding, *Street & General Directory of Cambridge, 1919-20*.
⁵³ *Zion—One Hundred Years of Baptist Witness 1837-1937*, p. 15.
⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 17.
⁵⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 18.
⁵⁶ *Death certificate* DX 172093, 25th April, 1924, Cambridge.
⁵⁷ *The Baptist Union Handbook for 1925*, p. 303.
⁵⁸ *Death certificate* DA 594185, 31st January, 1930, Alcester.

C. S. HALL and DOUGLAS C. SPARKES.

GEORGE DYER AND RYLAND'S ACADEMY

JAMES CULROSS in his attractive little book *The Three Rylands*, published in 1897, tells of John Collett Ryland (1723-92), his famous son, Dr. John Ryland (1753-1825) and the only son of the latter, Jonathan Edwards Ryland (1798-1866). During more than a century this family succession made varied and notable contributions to Baptist life.

While minister of College Lane, Northampton, J. C. Ryland started a school, which gained a considerable reputation and for which he prepared a number of textbooks, now of interest to students of education. He moved the school to Enfield in 1785.

Among the ushers at Ryland's school was George Dyer (1755-1841), minor poet, bookworm and author of a life of Robert Robinson, of Cambridge. Dyer appears in the pages of Lamb and Hazlitt. In the *Baptist Quarterly*, Vol. X, pp. 260-267, I argued that E. V. Lucas in his well-known life of Lamb must be mistaken in suggesting that Dyer joined Ryland in Enfield and presented a case for thinking that he went to Northampton in 1782 or 1783 and ceased to teach at the school when it moved to Enfield and he had been beaten for the hand of Ryland's step-daughter, Miss Stott, by his fellow usher, John Clarke.

On pp. 39-43 Culross quotes from what he describes as "the unpublished autobiographical reminiscences of the late Samuel Bagster of Paternoster Row and Old Windsor, a pupil of Mr. Ryland's". Now, seventy-five years later, this autobiography has been published under the title *Samuel Bagster of London 1772-1851: An Autobiography* (Samuel Bagster & Sons, Ltd., £2.00), with an introduction by Sybil Thorndyke. The book has much in it of interest and is of importance to Baptist historians for the references to Ryland's school, which are more extensive than Culross's quotations suggest.

Bagster was sent to Northampton as a boarder in 1779 at the age of seven and left, to his regret, in 1783. He records that Dyer was "classical master" at the time of his entry so that the date I suggested

must be put back three years at least. John Clarke was the mathematics tutor and Bagster says that "after Dyer left, Mr. Clarke took the classical department as well" (*op. cit.*, p. 35).

Bagster describes a number of vivid and amusing incidents from his schooldays in Northampton. He had a high regard for Ryland and what he learned at the school.

ERNEST A. PAYNE.

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SUMMER SCHOOL 1974—IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Will members please note that a change in date and venue has proved necessary. We shall meet July 11-14th at the Northern Baptist College, Manchester. Booking forms will be sent out later on. Meanwhile, reserve the date and plan to be with us. If you can contribute to the success of the School by preparing a paper of some 15-20 minutes duration on a theme which you have been pursuing, please write to the Secretary as soon as possible.