The Annual Meeting

THIS was held at Friends House on 5th March, 1936, and was attended by about a hundred members and visitors. The retiring President, J. Travis Mills, delivered his presidential address on " An Orator's Library ", a lecture on John Bright and his use of books. The paper was one whose living interest has not been exceeded in any recent meeting of the Society. With a skilful use of quotation, now from Bright's speeches, now from the authors he read, we were enabled to see the statesman's close familiarity with many of the greatest writers of all periods from the ancient classics till his own times, and to appreciate how well he lived out his own view that a well-educated man needs not so much to read widely as to read of the best. Yet in Rochdale Public Library there are 1,200 volumes he both owned and used. The seventeenth century was his favourite period and Milton the major formative influence on his own style. He knew also the works of the leading Quaker writers from Fox to Whittier.

William F. Harvey was appointed President and Arthur Raistrick Vice-President for the ensuing year. Anna L. Littleboy acted as chairman to the meeting.

Friends' Historical Society

Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1935

Receipts	£	s.	d.	Payments	£	s.	d.
Balance in hand, 31st Dec., 1934	74	15	3	Petty Cash and Postage	8	0	0
Subscriptions ..	71	1	11	Annual Meeting Cards and stationery ..	1	6	0
Sales	5	17	7	Book Centre: Postage on parcels to Michigan Library		11	4
				Headley: 425 " F.H.J." vol. xxxii.	55	14	9
				Headley: Reprint " William Penn and English Politics " ..	1	18	6
				Balance in hand, as at 31st Dec., 1935 ..	84	4	2
	£151	14	9		£151	14	9

Examined with Books and Vouchers and found correct, 20.ii.1936.

AUGUSTUS DIAMOND.