

THE JOURNAL
OF THE
FRIENDS' HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Friends House.

Annual Meeting

THE President for 1948, Emilia Fogelklou-Norlind, will not be able to come from Sweden to England to deliver her presidential address until 1949. The committee decided, nevertheless, to make arrangements for an annual meeting, feeling that members would perhaps appreciate an opportunity for a more informal discussion of the aims of the Society and how best to promote them.

The annual meeting was held in the Library at Friends House on Thursday, December 2nd, and was attended by about fifty members and others. Beatrice Saxon Snell very kindly took the chair. Much preparatory work fell on the library staff to whom an expression of the Society's grateful appreciation is due.

Felix Hull gave a valuable and interesting talk on the preservation of Quaker records, leading to a stimulating discussion. Indeed, when the meeting closed just before 8 o'clock a spirited exchange of views on the pros and cons of depositing Friends' records in County record offices was still in progress. It was decided that the substance of Felix Hull's address should be made available to curators of Meeting House safes and others concerned with the preservation of records.

The lively discussion on care and preservation of records aptly illustrated a point made by Edward Milligan who had spoken earlier on the functions of the Society. He had suggested that in addition to the presidential addresses there was a need for informal gatherings of Friends engaged on particular aspects of historical research, in order to share information, to discuss problems of method and matter, and for mutual encouragement, and that the organization of these might be undertaken by the Society. The committee was asked to consider the matter further and arrange accordingly.

It was also agreed that, in addition to the *Journal*, it would be useful to have a duplicated bulletin describing research work being undertaken by members of the Society and containing notes and queries.

A letter from the President of the (American) Friends' Historical Association, William Wistar Comfort, was read, expressing appreciation of the recent visit of Muriel Hicks to the United States, and looking forward to a period of closer co-operation between the two societies. The chairman was asked to write to W. W. Comfort, and the committee was asked to explore further the means of promoting co-operation with the Friends' Historical Association in America.

The meeting heard with interest that a collection of MS. letters at York to and from William Dewsbury has been edited by Henry J. Cadbury and is being printed as a Supplement to this *Journal*. This has been made possible by the generosity of the Bannisdale Press, who will publish the letters and give a copy to each member of the Friends' Historical Society. It will bear the imprint both of this Society and the Friends' Historical Association in America.

It was agreed that the annual subscription, which has been five shillings since the formation of the Society in 1903, should now be raised to ten shillings, but that the Life Membership subscription should remain at five guineas. The Library Committee of Meeting for Sufferings was again asked to act as the executive committee, but was given power to co-opt. Officers for 1949 were appointed as follows :

President : Emilia Fogelklou-Norlind ; *Editor of Journal* : John L. Nickalls ; *Assistant Editor* : Russell S. Mortimer ; *Secretary* : Muriel A. Hicks ; *Assistant Secretary* : Edward H. Milligan ; *Auditor* : Basil G. Burton.

Even with an increased subscription the Society needs a much larger membership if it is going to pay its way, the more so if it is to engage in the further activities outlined above. A list of present members, arranged under Quarterly Meetings, has been prepared and is obtainable from the secretary : we hope that all members will do their best to interest others in joining. There must be many people actively engaged in aspects of Quaker history or care of Quaker records who are not members of the Society. The desirability of every Preparative Meeting being a subscribing member was urged. In order to encourage the membership of some who might be hindered by a ten shillings subscription, the committee was asked to consider a provision for students to be members for a payment of five shillings a year.

The committee have appreciated the amount of interest, and the useful suggestions for methods of working which have been made by many members in the weeks before the annual meeting. We believe this augurs well for the future of the Society, and we hope to continue to receive both suggestions and the active co-operation of members in the work of promoting Quaker historical study both ancient and modern, and of publishing the results.