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## Editorial

WITH deep regret we record the loss sustained by the Friends' Historical Society in the death of Irene L. Edwards on January 12th, 1957. She was for many years a member of this Society, had been a member of its Committee as well as of the Library Committee of the Meeting for Sufferings since 1930 and was President of F.H.S. in 1954. Her constant researches into Quaker records, particularly those of London Friends Meetings brought her frequently into the Library for many years. She was always ready to lend a hand in such tasks as the making of inventories in the MS. collections, relieving the staff, or giving generous help to readers or correspondents in their own researches if she had material that would help them. Her principal contributions to this *Journal* were her "History of Winchmore Hill Meeting from 1688 to 1938" (*Journal*, 1938) and her presidential address on "The Women Friends of London: the Two Weeks and Box Meetings" (*Journal*, 1955). A longer memorial article was published in *The Friend*, February 1st, 1957.

IN this issue we print a paper by Dr. W. Alan Cole on the Social origins of early Friends, based on his study of the occupational information given in the Friends' registers of marriages in certain selected areas. This is an aspect of early Quaker history which has not been studied very much, and Dr. Cole's conclusions will command respect even when a

complete survey of the registers is undertaken. Much more evidence is probably needed before a full assessment can confidently be attempted, because within each occupation group is hidden wide variation in status, but the outstanding impression received is that of the large number of Friends in the "mechanic" trades, in clothing (particularly weaving) and minor branches of commerce, and the almost complete lack of gentry at the one end and unskilled labourers at the other.

There is also a note from research by Amy Wallis, on early Durham meeting organization and on Anthony Pearson, perhaps the most prominent Friend in "Bishopric" under the Commonwealth. The third major portion of this number consists of a further selection of MSS from the A. R. Barclay collection at Friends House.

It is one of the duties of the Friends' Historical Society to provide the materials by which scholars who come to study historical problems from perhaps a new angle, with original ideas and fresh questions to answer, can reach a full and balanced view of the evidence which Friends' records provide of the life of Quakerism during the past three hundred years.

We are fortunate that the earliest Friends had a true historical sense, and appreciated the need to preserve collections of papers which still in large part survive to illustrate the early growth of the movement. It is for us to produce the evidence and make it available for wider research. However, in printing documents concerning the early history of Quakerism we should not forget that the inner life of the Society was based not on the meeting organization, and the concerns in fields like education, welfare and good discipline which are inevitably more prominent, but on the message which the early Friends received and passed on to their fellow-countrymen of seventeenth-century England, and which underlay all activities in the growing fellowship.

#### ADDENDA ET CORRIGENDA

(Article on *Darlington*, vol. xlviii, no. 2)

- p. 58, note, line 2, *for* Cudworthys, *read* Cudworths.
- p. 63, line 29, *for* 1766 to 1857, *read* 1760 to 1858.
- p. 65, line 36, The "Centenary" ceremony of 1948 was actually held on the 102nd anniversary of the death of Joseph Pease.
- p. 67, line 12, *for* 1853, *read* 1854.  
line 37, *for* third surviving, *read* eldest.