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Editorial

THE Presidential Address for 1965 was delivered by Janet Payne Whitney on 30th September at the annual meeting of the Friends' Historical Society at Friends House. Last year's president, Elfrida Vipont Foulds, took the chair at the meeting. Janet Whitney's biographies, *Elizabeth Fry, Quaker Heroine*; *John Woolman, American Quaker*; and *Geraldine S. Cadbury*; have done much since the 1930's to make these Friends known to a wider public than would normally venture into the field of Quaker history. The Historical Society is therefore fortunate to have the benefit of Janet Whitney's reading and interpretation of the all-too-short paragraphs at the beginning of George Fox's *Journal* about his early life and development. Her address, entitled "The apprenticeship of George Fox" forms the main item of this issue.

"The mystery of Swarthmoor Hall" by Alfred Braithwaite is no ghost story but a discussion of the legal aspects of the dispute between Margaret Fell and her son George concerning the ownership of the Hall, and a possible assessment of the rights and wrongs of the case. This family quarrel has exercised a good many Quaker historians, and Alfred Braithwaite tells how Isabel Ross, the authority on Margaret Fell, was herself not convinced in which direction justice lay. The paper attempts a re-appraisal and a new verdict in the light of all the evidence which survives.

Andrew Brink's study of "The Quietism of Isaac Pennington" is based almost entirely on the pamphlets which Pennington published between 1648 and 1650 during a period formative in his own life and thought, as it was crucial in the application of political theory to a revolutionary situation in England. Geoffrey Carter prints a letter which throws some light on the childhood of Jacob Bright (1775-1851), father of John Bright the Statesman, a matter of which practically nothing is known.

The number also contains reviews (including an extended review by Dr. R. C. Alston, of the Leeds University School of English, of *You und Thou* by Thomas Finkenstaedt), Notes (including contributions from Henry J. Cadbury and Frank M. Wright) and reports on Archives.

The Spring meeting of the Society, held in the Library at Friends House on 1st April, heard an address by Amy E. Wallis on "Anthony Pearson, an early Friend of Bishoprick." We hope to print it in a future number. A brief report appeared in *The Friend*, 21st May, 1965, pp. 589-90.