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Editorial

THREE hundred years ago, in early September, 1666, a fire began in Pudding Lane in the City of London which devastated a large area of the ancient city. The rebuilding of London after the Fire laid down a plan which has influenced the growth of the capital and the life of its citizens ever since, and which can still be traced even after the changes which three centuries have brought. People far and wide are interested in London, and many persons have had cause to be grateful to George Edwards for his knowledge of London history and his willingness to share it. It is therefore most appropriate that our *Journal* for 1966 should open with his short article, bringing together the little that we know concerning London Friends and the Fire of 1666.

"Anthony Pearson: an early Friend in Bishoprick" reproduces the substance of the address which Amy Wallis gave to the Society at its spring meeting on 1st April, 1965, throwing light on the Quaker activities of a man of affairs who was, during its formative period, a valued leader in the Quaker movement north of the Humber.

Bruce Gordon Blackwood, currently working for an Oxford D.Phil. on the Lancashire gentry, 1625-1660, contributes a paper touching on Lonsdale Quakers against a background of agrarian unrest in the middle of the seventeenth century. New evidence is produced from Duchy of Lancaster papers in the Public Record Office.

Alfred Braithwaite's paper on Informers gives a general picture of one aspect of the persecutions of early Friends which local historians will be able to fill out for themselves with local evidence in the records of Sufferings in meetings up and down the country.

Kenneth L. Carroll, of Southern Methodist University (and Dallas, Texas, Monthly Meeting), edits the appeal for a national collection for money to support Friends' work which went out in 1662 and which is preserved in Friends House Library, Portfolio 24,27. Kenneth Carroll provides notes and brief biographies of the signatories to the document.

In searching for his ancestors on both sides of the Irish Sea, Robert Davis was directed by Isabel Grubb to an article in *The Friends' Monthly Magazine*, a short-lived periodical of the early 1830s. From it he recounts the curious features in a tale of shipwreck on the Somerset coast in January, 1782, in which two Quaker passengers, embarked from Cork to Bristol, lost their lives.

Henry J. Cadbury cogently questions the ascription of the "Woolman" letter which was printed in 1957 in *Journal F.H.S.*, xlviii, p. 147.

This number also includes Reports on Archives, New Publications and the usual features.

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The spring meeting of the Society, postponed until 5th May, 1966, was given over to an address by Lucia Beamish, entitled "The silent century: Quaker ministry, 1750-1850". It incorporated some results from her researches for the Oxford degree of B. Litt.

Charles F. Carter has had to defer his Presidential Address until next year, and the normal autumn meeting, held this year on 6th October, heard a talk by Henry J. Cadbury on "John Woolman in England in 1772". The substance of this will appear in the forthcoming Supplement to this *Journal*.