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OF THE  
FRIENDS' HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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## Editorial

THE Presidential Address by Charles F. Carter, entitled "Unsettled Friends: church government and the origins of membership", was delivered at the meeting of the Historical Society on 6th October in the Small Meeting House at Friends House. It illustrates how the Poor Law regulations in the seventeenth and eighteenth century influenced the thinking and affected the arrangements made by Friends for dealing with their own poor. This address aroused much interest and is printed in this issue in the form in which it was delivered.

For many years Friends have tried to read the shorthand reports and notes which appear here and there among early Quaker manuscripts. Douglas Lister's knowledge of early shorthand has enabled him to crack the secrets of some of the Quaker documents, and his paper on the systems of the period sheds light on the problems involved. It now seems that these shorthand notes do not hold any great secrets—no Quaker Pepys is likely to come to light—but we look forward to a complete survey of Quaker shorthand in the future.

Alfred Braithwaite's paper on "George Fox's Last Imprisonment" studies the points which made the release of George Fox from his frustrating imprisonment after his arrest at Armscott (Worcs.) at the end of 1673, so long delayed and difficult to achieve.

William H. Marwick surveys the Glasgow Study Circle, a group interested in radical (social as well as political) reform and peace and with Friends active in its membership, from its beginnings in 1916 until after the 1939-45 war.

David M. Butler, in the course of his studies of Friends' meeting houses, has extracted from the Yearly Meeting records the answers to Queries from 1688 to 1791 recording the settlement of new meetings and the building of meeting houses. This list, together with notes, is printed for the record.

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

The Society's usual Spring meeting was deferred until the Summer when Kenneth Carroll delivered an address entitled: "John Perrot: a difficult Friend?". Readers will themselves be enabled to judge of the merit of the final question mark in the title when the paper is, as is hoped, printed as a Supplement and distributed at a later date.

#### Muriel A. Hicks

WE regret to record the death of Muriel A. Hicks on 22nd November, 1967. Muriel Hicks was for more than thirty years until her retirement in 1959 assistant librarian at Friends House, and her wide knowledge of the library's resources was freely placed at the disposal of enquirers and research workers who came there from all parts of the world, and with all types of research projects on hand. Her unaffected welcome, her knowledge of London, and close concern with Quaker activities in the capital enriched the help she was able to give to so many.

Muriel Hicks was for a long period Secretary of the Friends' Historical Society, and served the Society in many unrecorded, but well-remembered, ways. Her paper "Friends' Reference Library, 1901-1959", part of an address she gave to the Society in March 1960, which included many personal reminiscences, was printed in the *Journal*, vol. 49, pp. 123-34. An obituary notice by John Nickalls, formerly Librarian at Friends House, appeared in *The Friend*, 29.xii.1967, p. 1612.