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Editorial

CHRISTOPHER J. HOLDSWORTH'S Presidential Address to the Historical Society, entitled "Mystics and Heretics in the Middle Ages—Rufus Jones reconsidered", was delivered at Friends House on 3 November 1972. It forms the leading article in this issue. It does not deal specifically with Rufus Jones' views on the relationship between mysticism and Quakerism; its purpose is rather to re-examine critically his treatment of the mysticism of earlier centuries; but Christopher Holdsworth's study of this may clearly, as he modestly suggests, "have some relevance to the other debate."

The Society's Spring meeting was held at Friends House on 5 May 1972, when David Eversley addressed a large and appreciative audience on "Statistics and Experience: a demographer's approach to the Quaker past". The speaker described the ways in which he and his colleagues had been sifting Friends' records for data, and mentioned some of the provisional conclusions arrived at. When the full analysis is ready for publication we shall look forward to a considerable enlargement of our knowledge and understanding of Quaker "vital statistics".

In addition to the Presidential Address, we include a paper by Kenneth L. Carroll on "Martha Simmonds, a Quaker enigma", in which he studies one more aspect of the Naylor episode, and the woman who in many ways took the leading part in the events which signalled a turning point in

Quaker development. Whether or not Martha Simmonds was (in Kenneth Carroll's apt quotation) "that Woman through whom this hour came", as George Bishop said, we are fortunate to be able now to see a fuller picture of her career than heretofore.

Henry J. Cadbury throws some further light on the relations between King Charles II and Friends, and Alfred Braithwaite considers the evidence for statements that Penn's Jury (in the Penn-Meade trial of 1670) were "starved" in an attempt to force them to bring in a verdict acceptable to the Court.

George J. Willauer presents a study of some letters in Friends' Historical Library, Dublin, in his "An Irish Friend and the American Civil War; some letters of Frederic W. Pim to his father". The letters throw light on both Friends' attitude to events in America and on conditions there at that time.

Included also are various bibliographical notes, information on historical research, and notes and queries.

During the past year members will have received the following supplements to the *Journal*:

32. John Woolman in England, 1772. By Henry J. Cadbury.
33. John Perrot, early Quaker schismatic. By Kenneth L. Carroll.

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It is with great regret that we have to report the death on 1 February 1972 of Isabel Grubb, of Coolros, Grange Park, Waterford, at the age of 90. Isabel Grubb was president of the Historical Society, and delivered her presidential address entitled "Quakerism and home life, an eighteenth century study" on 28 February 1935.

An appreciation of her work in Irish Quaker history, and in particular in the development of the Friends' Historical Library at Eustace Street, Dublin, is contributed by Olive C. Goodbody, the present Curator of that collection and compiler of the printed *Guide to Irish Quaker records* (Irish Manuscripts Commission, 1967), which has made the wealth of the collection available to a wider public. Appended is a list of the published historical works of Isabel Grubb, based on information kindly provided by the library at Friends House, London.