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Editorial

HELEN FORDE addressed a meeting of the Historical Society at Friends House on 6 May 1977 on "Quakers and the World's People: the experience of Nottinghamshire and Derby Friends, 1650-1761". The Autumn meeting, 2 September 1977, was an open session to which various Friends contributed. Following an introduction by Edward Milligan on the events of the 1890s, several readings were given illustrating childhood and adolescence during that decade, and these were followed by a talk by George Edwards. Fifty Friends attended.

This issue opens with an article by Jean Mortimer on the guarded reaction of Leeds Meeting to the stresses which were manifested in the Beaconite controversy over the emphasis to be placed on the position of the Bible as a basis for Christian belief, and how the Quaker discipline was exercised in the cases which came before Friends in the town in the late 1830s.

An unsolved problem of identity is presented by Caroline R. Kerkham in her manuscript source giving the observations of an Anglican clergyman on the Sunday evening meeting which was held by travelling Friends at an inn in Radnorshire in 1799. Who were the Friends who held the meeting?

The two articles above had to be held over from 1976, owing to lack of space. The balance of the number, apart

from a review of Robert Mays: *Henry Doubleday, the Epping naturalist* by Adrian Smith (subject consultant for the biological sciences at Leeds University Library) and the usual features, is taken up with seventeenth-century subjects. Kenneth Carroll enumerates "Quaker attitudes to signs and wonders"; Craig Horle's "Judicial encounters with Quakers, 1660-1688" gives us the benefit of his detailed researches in a field which used particularly to interest Alfred W. Braithwaite, our former editor; and Barry Reay, who is working for an Oxford D.Phil., prints two manuscript addresses by Edward Burrough to the Parliament and the Army illustrating the part which he was attempting to play in the troubled year before the Restoration. The documents in question are among the Rawlinson Manuscripts at the Bodleian Library.

Henry Doubleday

Henry Doubleday, the Epping naturalist. By Robert Mays. Printed and published by Precision Press, Marlow, Bucks. 1978. pp. xi, 118; 2 plates. £4.20.

Henry Doubleday (1808-1875) and his brother Edward (1811-1849) illustrate both the amateur and professional contributions made to science. Edward held a post with the British Museum, while Henry remained an amateur, collecting, recording, and corresponding extensively while depending on the family business for his income. Today natural history retains the interest of many amateur scientists, but other branches of science are dominated by institutions and professional scientists.

The family business, founded by Joseph Doubleday in 1793, became a flourishing hardware and grocery trade, and was continued by Benjamin and Mary Doubleday, Henry's parents. Joseph and Benjamin both played a part in local affairs, for example as members of the Turnpike Trust. Henry succeeded his father as Treasurer of the Highway Trust (which carried a salary) as he inherited the grocery business at the end of 1847.

Henry's special interests were ornithology and entomology. Conservationists today might deplore the methods of nineteenth-century collectors, shooting and stuffing birds, taking eggs from nests, and pinning insects. Henry was a skilful taxidermist and his work was seen at the Great Exhibition. He records "a very fine specimen of the Green Sandpiper which I shot here about two weeks since without spoiling a feather, and it has made a very