

SOCIETY NOTES

Following the plans and timetable approved for the Bulletin at the AGM, the next two issues will be:

Number 38 April/May 1980

"Co-operation in the '80's".

Number 39 August/September 1980

"The Service of the Co-operative College".

Co-operative Studies and Publications

Among the lines of progress in the Bulletin which we are examining is one relating particularly to Co-operative studies and publications. There are various aspects we should like to tackle:

- A review to be updated from time to time of the various organisations interested in promoting Co-operative research and the relations among them. This would, of course, include CLEAR, the Co-operative Liaison and Educational Research Unit, set up by the Education Department at Stanford Hall. It would also include other agencies both inside and outside the Movement - for example, the Co-operatives Research Unit, Faculty of Technology, Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA.

- Renewal of the occasional bibliography on selected publications of Co-operative interest which was a feature of some earlier Bulletins.
- Review in more detail of some of these publications.

All of these lines of exploration, as they say, are - well-being explored.

Future of the Society

The meeting of the National Officers on 28th September had a reasonably reassuring report of the membership so far enrolled for 1979/80 - particularly when it is acknowledged that the figures have been achieved during the summer fallow months. The next meeting of the Officers is fixed for 24th January 1980 and will be largely devoted to discussing the future development of the Society - drawing, of course, on the suggestions made in Bulletin 36. The various contributors there were asked to engage with the questions:

- What would be the advantages of increasing the engagement between universities and colleges and Co-operative practitioners?
- What general conditions and mechanisms for extending this engagement should be explored?
- What practical steps should be taken to these ends by the Society for Co-operative Studies?

If you have any further suggestions, why not send them to the Secretary in good time for that meeting?

More particularly on the Bulletin itself, the Joint Editors would be glad to have any suggestions you can make. In Bulletin 36, while claiming considerable merit for the Bulletins already, I suggested some possible lines of action about them:

- More service as a journal of topical comment on Co-operative issues of the day in addition to any concentration on selected topics.
- More controversy.
- More reaction from readers.
- More attention to the printing and the format of the Bulletin.
- Much more attention to marketing the Bulletin widely.

I also posed the case that there should be exploration of a link between the Society and some other organisation professionally engaged in publication which would respect the independence and editorial freedom of the Bulletin but would put marketing expertise and perhaps some resources into the venture. This, I suppose, rested on the assumption that the Bulletin has a distinctive role not covered elsewhere in the range of Co-operative publications - a regular and quite independent journal

devoted to comparatively detailed examination of some important problems by a variety of contributors from inside and outside service in the Movement.

Both the economic and the social responsibilities of the Movement need a service of this kind and it could be expanded still further if the resources were made available.

I should be delighted to hear from you. It is the time for all good members to come to the aid and advice of the Bulletin and, as ever, I would ensure that the suggestions are passed to the other Joint Editor and in the next meeting to the National Officers.

R.L.M.

PS. As a "last word which makes the end more sweet" - you will have noted from the list of Officers that since the last Bulletin my Joint Editor has become Professor Carbery. Warmest congratulations to him - and equally to the University of Strathclyde for such a discriminating decision.