

SOCIETY NOTES

When the national officers of the Society met on 23 February, then - as the minutes say - "Bob Marshall reported that (Bulletin 46) had been well received". It is a true record but my constant worry since has been that it may be too true, doubly true: that it is accurate to say that I made that judgement but also accurate to imply that only I made it. Anyhow, as a matter of fact, Bulletin 46 is being widely received: there was an order from the Education Department of the Co-operative Union for a reprint so that the articles on "A Future for Consumer Co-operation in Britain?" could support a discussion booklet prepared for Education Convention on "Democracy and Structural Change". We took this opportunity to add to our stocks of the Bulletin and the Membership Secretary has sent a copy to each retail society not in the S.C.S. at present - with an invitation to come into membership.

Bulletins 47 and 48

In the present issue, the speculation and debate about the future of the consumer Movement continue, but the new special feature is "Women and the Co-operative Movement" which marks the centenary year of the Co-operative Women's Guild though its writ runs wider than the C.W.G. We also welcome the first set of Reviews from Jim McClosky who succeeds Stephen Drodge in this responsibility. "Wider still and wider" - we are also exploring whether in the Reviews section we can include some attention to foreign academic journals and also a listing of "publications received" on Co-operatives.

Bulletin 48, due out in August, will deal specially with the international Co-operative Movement and include, we hope, a survey of the forms and trends within it, a discussion of the prospects and problems of international co-operation, both political and economic, among Co-operatives, the question whether international Co-operation and the individual Co-operator can be linked more significantly and a report of the International Co-operative Alliance.

Working Groups and Regional Activity

Following the interest expressed in the S.C.S. 1982 Conference the group on "Co-operation between Co-operatives" has had some preliminary exploration of a "central consultative body" for all sectors of the Movement. The proposed working group on "membership participation" is still in process of formation.

The main regional report is of a successful series of meetings in the Metropolitan and Southern region and on the initiative largely of Nancy Scott, the convenor.

Convention and Conference

The Chairman of the S.C.S. was invited by the Education Executive to address the Education Convention at Stanford Hall on 1 April and made good use of the opportunity to report the work of the Society and its relation to the role of the Education Department. Officers of the Society also manned a stall for the sale of Bulletins and the recruitment of members.

The S.C.S. conference and A.G.M. will be at Stanford Hall on 23-24 September 1983 and the general theme will be "Large-scale Co-operatives, with particular reference to their management". This will accommodate attention also to an alternative model for development favoured, for example, by many in the "new wave" Co-operatives. It promises a rich, vigorous and coherent mixture.

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R.L.M.