

SOCIETY NOTES

In Bulletin 50, in part, "the medium is the message". We have long had ambitions and plans to improve the method of preparing the copy for printing and to re-design the cover and the Society has been able, at least for the time being to give us some additional resources. With the aid of the CWS, the Co-operative Union and Loughborough College of Art and Design we have made the changes of form that greet you quite confidently – and appropriately at this half-way stage towards a century of survival and some achievement.

The Next Bulletin – and Annual Conference

In Bulletin 51, due out next August, we hope to maintain the richer variety which number 50 has managed and within that scope to cultivate at least two particular areas. Already in the present issue we are indebted to John Gallacher and Michael Young for initial exploration of "a Co-operative critique of non-Co-operative institutions". How should we define now the values and principles which the Movement serves and to what extent are they, or could they be, exercised in other organisations which do not carry that banner with the proud device "Co-operation"? The National Health Service? The Broadcasting organisations? Nationalised Industries? And so on – we hope in Bulletin 51 to continue the exploration.

Our second main thrust will be to examine the three institutions of the Labour Movement – the Trade Unions, the Labour Party and consumer Co-operative Societies. How far do their present condition exhibit common features, share the same causes and require similar responses?

The latter topic in Bulletin 51 is likely to be the main theme of the Annual Conference of the Society on Saturday/Sunday 15-16 September at Stanford Hall.

Researcher's Seminar

Of various other projects on the S.C.S. agenda at the moment, the most definite is a one-day Seminar for Co-operative Researchers, to be held in London on a June date still to be fixed. It will deal primarily with worker Co-operatives and is being organised in consultation with the Co-operatives Research Unit of the Open University.

Membership

The membership in 1983-4 has been the the highest the Society has yet achieved – 160 individuals and 61 organisations. Wider still and wider shall our bounds be set – we hope! Enclosed with the Bulletin is a form for the renewal sought for 1984-5 for all present members – and for any additional members you can bring into the society.

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R.L.M.