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Editorial

IN OCTOBER 1972 the United Reformed Church came into being as a result of the union between the Congregational Church in England and Wales and the Presbyterian Church of England. Whilst we look with hopefulness to the future life of the new Church in all its departments we are especially interested in the United Reformed Church History Society.

The Congregational Historical Society was founded in 1899 and the Presbyterian Historical Society of England in 1913. A little over two years ago, as it became clear that negotiations for union between the two Churches were likely to prove fruitful, officers of the two Societies began to meet. Their consultations resulted in the formation of the new History Society which incorporates both the former Historical Societies. The first President is Dr. Geoffrey F. Nuttall and the Joint Secretaries are the Rev. J. R. Plowman, M.A. and Mr. A. G. Esslemont, B.Com., F.C.I.S. There will, of course, be no further issues of either the *Transactions of the Congregational Historical Society* or of the *Journal of the Presbyterian Historical Society*, but a new publication, the first issue of which will appear in May of this year, will be produced, it is hoped, biannually. The charge for the journal is not yet known, but the current annual subscription to the new Society is 50p. The Treasurer is Mrs. Janet E. Carr and the Society's offices are at 86, Tavistock Place, London, WC1H 9RT. The library of the Presbyterian Historical Society has now become the property of the United Reformed Church and is stored at Tavistock Place. Plans are in hand to enlarge its holdings of Congregational literature. The Congregational library remains the property of the Memorial Hall Trust and it will be rehoused in the Hall when rebuilding is complete.

The new Society must feel some satisfaction that whilst they set themselves the task of recording history, they have actually made history too. Our readers will wish to join with us in extending to the officers and members good wishes for the future.

Mr. F. M. W. Harrison, one of our members, has been awarded the M.Ph. degree by Nottingham University for a thesis on "The Life and Thought of the Baptists of Nottinghamshire with special reference to the period 1770-1914". We congratulate Mr. Harrison on his success in a piece of research which makes a valuable contribution to the study of Baptist history. Members will be glad to know that he has very kindly given a copy of the thesis to the Library.

Enquiries are quite often received on the availability of back numbers of our journals. Members who have back numbers to offer are encouraged to make this known. In particular, the Secretary would be glad to hear from anyone who could help complete his file which lacks the following issues of *The Baptist Quarterly*—vol I nos. 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8; vol. IV nos. 3, 7; vol XI nos. 1 & 2.