

The British Agricultural History Society

THE REVIEW

It is encouraging to be able to record that Volume I of the Review has been remarkably well received and that there have been many compliments both from members of the Society and from the Press. The Editorial Board have been at pains to keep this second volume up to the same standard, and hope that it will have as kindly a reception.

There has been some criticism of the fact that the Review is at the moment only available to members of the Society and cannot be purchased by the general public. The Executive Committee feel, however, that as long as the Society's income will only permit the production of one issue a year, it would be unfair to members to sell it at a price less than the annual subscription. In fact anybody can obtain it, if he so desires, for one guinea, although this carries with it a year's membership of the Society. Once the Review appears twice a year the Executive Committee foresee no difficulty in selling single issues for a little more than half the cost of the subscription. It may be worth mentioning that there are adequate stocks of Volume I and that members may purchase copies for 10s. 6d.

The membership of the Society has continued to rise, and on the eve of going to press it stands at just over 270. It is to be hoped that all members of the Society will do their best to encourage others to join. A little over a hundred more members will make it possible to issue the Review twice a year.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The annual general meeting and one-day conference was held on 2 April 1954 at the University College of Leicester. Thirty-seven members attended. At the Annual General Meeting the officers of the Society were re-elected for the current year, and to fill the vacancies on the Executive Committee Miss W. M. Dullforce of Nottingham University School of Agriculture, Dr W. G. Hoskins, Reader in Economic History at Oxford Uni-

versity, and Mr Richard Lamb, a Wiltshire farmer, were elected. The Treasurer's report showed that receipts during the year (including 205 subscriptions) totalled £286 16s. od., and expenses amounted to £117 17s. od., leaving a balance as at 31 January 1954 of £168 19s. od. The Treasurer pointed out, however, that this figure did not take into account the printing of the Review, the bill for which had since been paid. He nevertheless thought that the position was satisfactory and that the Society could look forward with equanimity to the production of the second volume during the summer.

During the course of the meeting tribute was paid to the help which the Society had received during the previous year from the Association of Agriculture, who had enabled the Society to participate in holding conferences on agricultural history without having to accept financial responsibility.

Another point of interest which arose was the suggestion that the Society should compile a list of subjects on which its members were doing research, in order that members working on similar subjects might get in touch with one another. After some discussion it was agreed that if such a project were limited to members of the Society it would be far from comprehensive, but that if extended it would prove a mammoth task. The proposal is one which may be reconsidered at a later date.

After the meeting two papers were given. The first was by Dr J. D. Chambers, on 'Agricultural Trends in the Eighteenth Century, with special reference to the Trent Valley', and the second by Dr J. E. Handley, on 'Rural Conditions in Eighteenth-Century Scotland'. Later the members of the conference visited Belgrave Hall and the Newarke Houses at the invitation of the Director of Leicester Museums, to view the agricultural collections. At the conclusion of the tour the party was entertained to tea in the Newarke Houses by the Lord Mayor of Leicester.