

The British Agricultural History Society

MEMBERSHIP

The fortunes of the Society continue to flourish, but in order to make two issues of the Review a year a secure financial proposition more members are required. In this issue for the first time a complete list of the members is given. The Executive Committee very much hope that members will make a point of encouraging friends and colleagues who do not already belong to join the Society. With this in view a membership application form is being sent out with this issue. There must be many who, although interested in the history of agriculture, do not belong to the Society and even perhaps do not know of its existence. The cost of one issue of the Review is approximately £180. At the present time we have about 330 members; with 400 we should be in a comfortable position. A determined effort on the part of everybody to increase our membership would be a very great help. It may be of interest to point out that new members may, if they wish, purchase Volumes I and II of the Review for ten shillings and sixpence each.

THE REVIEW

It will be noticed that this issue is described as Vol. III, Part I. In the hope that the appeal in the foregoing paragraph will bear fruit, the Editorial Board is already contemplating publication of a second issue in six months' time. One suggestion that has been put forward is that we might usefully publish a list giving particulars of research in progress, so that members with kindred interests may establish contact with each other if they wish. The Board would like to do this, and will be grateful if members will co-operate by furnishing details of any research in agrarian history on which they or their friends are engaged. A postcard to Dr J. Thirsk, University College, Leicester, headed Research in Progress, giving name and address, and specifying the subject of the research, will greatly assist the compilation of a really useful list.

The Editor, who is already receiving offers of more contributions than can be accommodated in these pages, will nevertheless be glad to reserve space for letters raising queries or discussing controversial points.

STUDIES IN REGIONAL HISTORY

Another very successful one-day conference on Studies in Regional History was held jointly with the Association of Agriculture at the University of London Institute of Education on the 11th of December 1954. It was attended by about seventy people. The Chair was taken by the President, Sir James Scott Watson. The papers were as follows:

Dr Joyce Youings (University College of the South-West), 'Devonshire Monastic Lands in the Sixteenth Century'.

W. Harwood Long (Provincial Agricultural Economist, University of Leeds), 'The Development of Farming in the Yorkshire Dales'.

Dr D. C. Coleman (London School of Economics), 'Kentish Farming in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries'.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting and Conference will be held this year on 15 April at Somerville College, Oxford. Accommodation has been reserved at the College for the nights of 15 and 16 April.

SIR JAMES SCOTT WATSON

At the end of 1954 the President of the Society, Sir James Scott Watson, retired from his position as Chief Scientific Adviser to the Ministry of Agriculture and Director-General of the National Agricultural Advisory Service. Before this appointment, which he has held with great distinction for some years, he had been Professor of Agriculture at Oxford University and Agricultural Attaché at the British Embassy in Washington. It is to be hoped that he will now have time to contribute more to the published works on the history of agriculture. The Society wishes him well in his retirement.