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**BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**EDITORIAL**

THE Annual Meeting of the Baptist Historical Society will be held as usual during the Baptist Union Assembly week this year. The date is Monday, May 2nd; the place is the Institute Hall at Westminster Chapel; the time is 4.30 p.m. It is anticipated that tea will be available before the meeting. There are two items of Society business which are of considerable importance. We have, first of all, to elect a President in succession to the late Mr. Seymour Price. The officers have a nomination to bring to the meeting, but members are at liberty to make counter-nominations. Secondly, we shall receive an interim report on the discussions which the officers have had with the Baptist Union, in connection with possible further Union support. This matter was discussed at the Annual Meeting last year and the officers have proceeded in the light of decisions taken then. Following the business part of the meeting, Rev. R. E. Cooper, M.A., of Eltham College, will speak on "Some Origins of Ministerial Training amongst Baptists." Mr. Cooper has been engaged on research in this subject in connection with his Triple-Jubilee history of Regent's Park College, the manuscript of which he has recently completed. Undoubtedly Mr. Cooper will have some things to say about present-day Ministerial Training in the light of his researches. We hope that there will be time for some discussion. The time available, however, depends, in large measure, upon you who read this Editorial and who plan to come. Of recent



encouraging signs from some parts of the country that this important element is being taken seriously. It is greatly to be hoped that members of the Society will see to it that this very necessary theme is nowhere forgotten. It is essential that the denomination is taught the reasons for its very existence. Members of our churches must be Baptists by conviction. In these days of closer co-operation amongst the churches in England the older non-theological distinctions between Church and Chapel are disappearing. This is a matter for rejoicing, but if there do not remain theological distinctions, between Baptists and others, understood and accepted, then the distinctive Baptist witness—and ultimately the denomination—is doomed to extinction.

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