UNLESS in humble dependence we can become channels for the will of God, our labors will assume the quality of mechanism and be largely in vain. It is the spirit which gives life, and the Kingdom of God is like a seed or a culture of yeast which properly nurtured is capable of enormous growth. The nurture must be our concern.—JAMES G. VAIL.

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The Death Penalty—a Correction

SYDNEY BAILEY of the A.F.S.C. Program at the U.N. writes that it is premature to speak of the “abolition” of the death penalty in England, as was done here a month ago. In a free vote, without obligation to follow party programs, a majority of the House of Commons voted against the death penalty. Abolition will require legislation introduced by the government in office and passed by both Houses of Parliament. This may take some time. There is even a possibility that it may not happen. The House of Commons has condemned the death penalty in a free vote before. It is true, however, that aroused public opinion, soundly informed, has won a victory, although the victory is not yet complete.

Refugee Assurances

The State Department is inviting assurances for those seeking to come to the United States under the Refugees Act of 1953. This Act is due to expire at the end of this year. Because of the time required by U.S. officials to examine each case after an assurance is available, assurances should be offered by the first of July if they are to be useful. Church World Service, through which the A.F.S.C. works in refugee relief, now has about 2,000 cases for whom assurances are needed.

Friends should get in touch with Florine Miller at the A.F.S.C. It is simpler for a Monthly Meeting to give an assurance than for an individual. Givers of an assurance must indicate ability to provide employment and housing that will not displace a citizen, and to keep the refugee family from becoming a public charge. If a Meeting when it first offers an assurance will indicate the type of person for whom employment can be found, the procedure for admission can be speeded up.

Assurances are being received from Friends at an accelerated rate. The A.F.S.C. will be glad for Friends to do more than their minimum share in helping to carry out the Refugee Relief Program.

The Middle East

The United States has joined in inviting the United Nations to take steps to stop the danger of war in the Middle East. Premier Mollet of France hopes that the U.N. will place an embargo on arms to that part of the world. The United Kingdom seems to think that the Baghdad mutual defense pact, to which she is a party, offers a hope of exerting a moderating influence on the Arab states. It seems likely that no solution can be found now, nor for a long time to come, of the basic conflict between the Arab states and Israel.
Dual Membership

In at least one Monthly Meeting the question has been raised whether a Friend might hold membership not only in the Religious Society of Friends but also in another Christian church as well. Such considerations have at times occupied Friends also in other countries, notably in Europe when new Yearly Meetings were to be established. One argument favoring such dual membership points to the fact that a Friend might have to move to a neighborhood where no Meeting exists. He and his family have the understandable desire to participate in the religious life of the community; yet they do not want to sever their ties with Friends.

It seems that this problem touches upon the value we give to our primary loyalties. He who is a member of the Religious Society of Friends ought to decide whether this affiliation expresses the essence of his religious experience and conviction. Is this membership the answer to his specific religious predisposition? Does his sense of belonging to Friends nourish during his absence from the Meeting his spiritual life to such a degree that personal prayer, or family worship, the reading of the Scriptures or devotional literature, and information available from Quaker publications give him a sufficient and continuing contact with the faith and practice of Friends? He might try to find like-minded seekers and establish an informal study or reading group. Such a group may conceivably become a focus for a meeting later. Friends General Conference (1515 Cherry Street, Philadelphia 2, Pa.), the Friends World Committee, and the Wider Quaker Fellowship (both located at 20 South 12th Street, Philadelphia 7, Pa.) are endeavoring to keep in contact with such isolated individuals or groups. Literature is available.

Commitment

In many cases, a Friend will find contacts with other churches an enriching experience. It is entirely possible that participation in the life of another church clarifies some areas of his thinking that have been left unexplored in former years. Conversely, he may also discover that such contacts serve to strengthen the conviction that his real spiritual home is Quakerism. If, however, such a “migrating” Friend experiences that he is growing gradually into the life of another church and wants to share in the full circle of its faith and practice by actually joining it, he is then confronted by the need of making a clear choice. Our position concerning the primacy of the inner light, the role of the Bible in Friends beliefs, the practice of partaking in outward sacraments, the ordaining of ministers, church government, and other important matters is supported by our history, tradition, and practice. Our inability to make concessions on these significant tenets of our faith implies no intolerance. But it requires an inward and outward decision of considerable consequence. A change in matters of faith and practice occurring in an individual will always be met with respect and the deference due to such a decision. There is always the possibility of remaining in contact with the life of the Society by becoming a member of the Wider Quaker Fellowship. Some Meetings may consider an affiliated membership, allowing closeness to a Meeting without actual membership. All churches recognize increasingly their mutual obligation of tolerance and Christian love. But membership in each family of faith includes privileges as well as duties of a kind that entail a full and undivided commitment. The Society of Friends is no exception.

The Meaning of Membership

The problem raises questions about our procedure in accepting applicants for membership in the Religious Society of Friends. We have at times criticized ourselves for being too casual in such admissions. The support of our service work, racial tolerance, pacifism, even religious pacifism, or the attractive international character of our Society, a vague fatigue with dogmas or ritual practices—such reasons alone are insufficient motives for seeking membership. Membership implies first and foremost the conviction that the religious testimonies of Friends answer our spiritual needs and will call forth from us a degree of creative faith and action that had remained undeveloped at an earlier time. The absence of a creed, a most cherished tenet, may become
a difficulty even though it represents a desirable liberality and broadness. Do Friends assist applicants in realizing such problems? Does the applicant realize that membership may not mean agreement with every detail of our testimonies? What do we do to assure the applicant as well as ourselves that he is familiar with some of our basic writings, especially the book of discipline accepted in his future Meeting? How long did we know the applicant? Does he realize the meaning of phrases such as "a way of life," or "a religion of experience," or "freedom from creeds and theological formulæ"? Freedom should never be identified with a borderless individualism. Does the newcomer appreciate the "sense of a meeting"? Does he value the power of communal worship? What has attracted him to the Meeting so that he came to consider it a congenial fellowship? There are many additional questions to be asked. They must not become hurdles to create unnecessary difficulties. They are, nevertheless, precautions to guard both sides from making a hasty decision. Did those contemplating dual membership receive sufficient help of this kind when joining? Membership is a declaration of faith even when no verbal affirmation is required. Once more, it implies duties as well as privileges.

The Meeting Secretary
By GEORGE A. SELLECK

In theory I do not believe in Meeting secretaries. The Society of Friends is ideally a lay group in which the various responsibilities are carried and shared by the members of the Meeting without any appointed or employed officer to direct or coordinate them. Ever since I first became a meeting secretary 29 years ago, therefore, I have had the problem of reconciling theory with practice. What, then, is the justification for having a Meeting secretary or indeed of being one?

In a small Friends Meeting with a close fellowship a Meeting secretary should not be necessary. The various members could know one another well, could share their concerns, and could implement them by cooperative action. I can conceive of two occasions, however, when a Meeting secretary would be needed: (1) when the Meeting has a concern to make a greater impact upon the community than the members can make by themselves, especially if they are living in scattered communities, and (2) when the Meeting has grown sufficiently in numbers that someone is needed to coordinate the Meeting activities to help them function more effectively.

Coordinating Meeting Activities

The most important function of a Meeting secretary, I came to feel, is to serve in the capacity of what the chemist calls a "catalytic agent," making it easier for the various members and committees of the Meeting to function better in their various capacities. In practical terms it means that the Meeting secretary seeks to coordinate the various Meeting activities, to clear schedules, and to interpret one activity or committee and its work to another, so that all are working toward similar goals. He will also try to maintain communication among the members of the Meeting through notices and newsletters, to keep the members informed about one another and about the Meeting activities. The Meeting secretary may also serve in the capacity of a resource person presenting ideas and concerns as suggestions for various committees to act upon. Being in a focal position in the Meeting, he may become aware of certain needs before others see them. But, remembering that he is working in a spiritual democracy, he should be concerned to offer these as suggestions and not as directives. If the committee or group does not share the concern he presents, he will wait for another time, for another group, or he may modify his concern.

In general this outlines what I have tried to do as Meeting secretary during the past year, doing a great many things to make it easier for the work of the Meeting to be done by the members themselves. There is one area, however, in which I have felt it is the wish of the Meeting that I should function as the arm of the Meeting in the community.

The Young Friends Fellowship

This area is in connection with the Young Friends Fellowship, for which the Meeting, I believe, has had a real concern. I have served as adviser to the young people, helping them carry out their own programs and activities. But here again I have tried to put the chief responsibilities on the Young Friends themselves, holding myself in the background ready to make suggestions, to be available for counsel when needed, and to be sensitive to changes that need to be made. This has been, as always, a very rewarding service. On the whole, the Young Friends Fellowship has had a very good year with the average attendance on Sunday evenings between 40 and 50.

The week-end workcamps conducted by the Fellow-
ship have just completed an unusually successful year. Throughout the year 106 different young people have taken part in 17 week ends when they worked with some 20 different families in the vicinity of Norfolk House in Roxbury. Many of the young people have returned for more than one week end. Three times during the winter and spring the workcamps held Family Nights. On these occasions workcampers and families among whom they worked joined for a social evening of games, etc., at Norfolk House. As we were told recently by a social worker in the area, even more important than the painting or papering which has been done in the various homes has been the growth of a community spirit among these families living in a neighborhood where community spirit is conspicuously lacking.

A Deeper Spirit of Fellowship

As a Meeting secretary I have felt a responsibility for sharing in the creation of a deeper spirit of fellowship in our Meeting. In a small Meeting the spiritual nurture and care of the membership may be a mutual concern of the members, with no one person or group appointed for that purpose. But traditionally such pastoral care among Friends has been the concern of the Meeting on Ministry and Counsel.

In our Meeting, the Meeting on Ministry and Counsel has had a concern for this problem, and last year at my suggestion a special Committee on Pastoral Care was appointed by the Monthly Meeting to supplement the work of the Meeting on Ministry and Counsel. Both committees have carried out their tasks very conscientiously during the past year. Those who have had ill or who have had special problems have been of particular concern.

While the work of such committees is invaluable, I still feel that the mutual concern of Friends who know one another in small groups, who may meet together occasionally for worship and fellowship, is the most desirable. I am much interested in London Yearly Meeting’s proposal for the organization of a number of small study-fellowship groups in each Friends Meeting for the double purpose of creating a close fellowship and nurturing the spiritual life of the Meeting through study and worship.

Recently I have been much interested and intrigued by the story of the successive rise and fall of Friends Meetings in Boston. Four times in the past 800 years the same pattern has been carried out. A Friends Meeting has been founded, it has grown, a meeting house has been built, the Meeting has flourished, then decayed, the meeting house has been sold, and the Meeting laid down. In a few years a new group of Friends would be gathered, and the same cycle would be re-enacted.

Why does a Meeting flourish, then decay? Why can it not always be strong and vigorous? If our Meeting is strong today, is there any assurance that it will still be so 50 years hence? I cannot answer these questions, but I have a theory that is little more than a guess. Can it be that when a Meeting flourishes and becomes so large that a real spirit of fellowship and mutual concern is lost, then its spiritual power declines, and the members fall away? Does our Meeting have within it today the seeds of its own decay and decline? If my theory is true, the very existence and future of our Meeting is bound up with maintaining the fellowship and mutual concern of our members for one another, and any device for helping us do this should be welcomed. It is for this reason, I feel, that some thought should be given to the possibility of setting up small study-fellowship groups.

I am sure that these groups will not result in an exclusive, better-than-thou attitude, but rather that they will be the seedbeds for the generating and nourishing of Quaker concerns for the broader world and its problems.

In conclusion, let me say that I have felt there has been throughout the year a growth in the feeling of responsibility for the tasks of the Meeting. It has been gratifying that the development of the two First-day morning meetings for worship has been carried out so smoothly in such a good spirit of cooperation. I hope we may continue to meet future problems in the same spirit. If sometimes we feel that tasks to which we are called are beyond our strength and ability, let us remember the words of Isaac Penington:

For we can do nothing of ourselves; but being called, being drawn, being required to do that which is far beyond our strength, and giving up thereto; the life springs, the power appears, which does the work.

Meeting for Worship

By CARL F. WISE

Now gathers upon care and blare
The dew of quietness,
A hush on hush, a breathless voice,
Impalpable caress.

What is there in these unmarked walls,
This wood of ancient hue,
These usual, familiar friends
That makes so sweet a dew?

There needs no further miracle,
Nor burning bush nor rod,
Here in this peopled, public place,
Yet closeted with God.
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting
March 22 to 28, 1956

In the spirit of the well-known quotation, "My peace I give unto you," but "not as the world giveth," Philadelphia Yearly Meeting opened its 276th annual sessions as a reunited family. In a deeply moving hour of worship we were called to give freely of our best that the spirit of love might move among us, bringing growth to our fellowship.

The report of the Nominating Committee was approved, bringing to the desk Charles J. Dairlington and Elizabeth B. Yarnall as presiding and recording clerks respectively. Visitors were welcomed and their minutes endorsed as presented. They included from abroad Uko Irie of Tokyo and Lotte Rauff of Germany; several from other American Yearly Meetings included Thomas E. and Esther B. Jones of Earlham.

The clerk reported a request of the previous day from WCAU radio station for permission for unobtrusive picture-taking at the afternoon session. Mixed response resulted when it became known that the television program desiring the pictures had the dubious sponsorship of a beer company. It was later reported that the occasion for the pictures had passed due to the delay.

The Meeting then passed under the care of the Yearly Meeting on Worship and Ministry. Anna Brinton served as presiding clerk, and Wilmot R. Jones as recording clerk. The report of the Continuing Committee summarized the reports of Quarterly Meetings on Worship and Ministry (see page 78 of Reports of Committees booklet). This report mentioned a healthy increase in the frequency of holding local sessions of our subordinate Meetings as we work under the program of the new Faith and Practice. A deeper personal dedication appears to be the most deeply felt need among our Meetings. Underlying this problem is the one of adequate self-preparation through reading and private or family worship. The problem of fitting ourselves to foster the interest of attenders at our meetings and the primary concern for our younger members completed the major concerns of the report.

We were called to consider whether there has been a loss to the Society in the trend away from the early reliance upon a dedicated Eldership for the proper encouragement of personal faithfulness in the ministry, where the gift seems evident. Perhaps the negative aspect of the critical co-function has been allowed to overshadow the former to the loss of an important service as it becomes submerged in the busyness of modern Ministry and Worship functions. A few of our Meetings still follow the older procedure as provided for in Faith and Practice.

Much attention was given during the day to the subject of prayer. The theme was the important, but too infrequent, service of vocal prayer in meetings for worship; and the underlying necessity for an earnest and intimate personal prayer life was pointed to as an imperative for the quality of being which should be the Quaker avocation.

The meeting gave wholehearted encouragement to the Continuing Committee in its suggested program of service to the Yearly Meeting.

Supper Conference for Clerks

The clerks of the Monthly, Quarterly, and Yearly Meetings, together with their wives and husbands, met at the invitation of the Field Committee for supper on Thursday night. There were about 200 present, and the wide representation well covered the Yearly Meeting area. Judge Albert Maris, clerk of Lansdowne Meeting, Pa., spoke on the new Faith and Practice with penetration and humor. The Monthly Meeting is really the body in which basic business, particularly that having to do with membership, is transacted, and here all sorts of concerns originate. Our peculiar and precious way of proceeding, carried on under the guidance of the Spirit, puts a heavy responsibility on the clerk in recording in the minutes the judgment of the Meeting.

The use of time in the Meeting is the responsibility of the clerk. He must arrange to the best advantage the presentation of formal and membership business, the many communications, and the opening of new concerns. Too long a meeting brings into operation the law of diminishing returns, as the number of Friends diminishes.

Some parts of the Faith and Practice with variations from the practice of one or the other of the former Yearly Meetings were pointed out. The Queries have in the past played a vital part in developing and sustaining our testimonies. There was considerable discussion of various ways to use the Queries and Advices to best advantage. There was also discussion, with many good suggestions, of how a clerk can make the best use of the help, seldom fully used, that he has at hand in his assistant clerks. How a clerk should write his minutes and how much his minutes should concern themselves with the local Meeting and how much reflect the wider Quaker world were also among many matters considered.

The impressive gathering was useful in giving our clerks a wider insight into the good order used among us.

Epistles—Representative Meeting—Nominating Committee

The meeting welcomed Gilbert and Blanche Thomas of Stillwater Monthly Meeting, Ohio, introduced by a minute endorsed by Barnesville Yearly Meeting.

London Yearly Meeting's Epistle was read. Anne Wood, chairman of the Epistle Committee, told of the inspiration the Committee had gained from reading the greeting's of other Yearly Meetings. In conclusion she read a second letter recently received from London Yearly Meeting, rejoicing at the reuniting of the two branches of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. The Meeting recommended that, if possible, this letter be printed in the Friends Journal.
The Meeting approved suggestions that Julia Branson, at present in Germany, and Margaret Moore, who will probably be in Copenhagen at the time of Denmark Yearly Meeting, be asked to represent Philadelphia Friends. It also directed the Epistle Committee to prepare an outgoing message to other Yearly Meetings.

Edith Reeves Solenberger of Lansdowne Monthly Meeting, Pa., reported on her inspiring visits to more than 50 Meetings in Western United States and Canada.

The wish was generally expressed that every adult member of the Yearly Meeting could read the Representative Meeting's report and so better understand the scope of the work of the Representative Meeting. Gordon Jones, clerk of the Representative Meeting, explained that the report in full will be published in the Yearly Meeting's minutes. The suggestion that future issues of *The Messenger* should report proceedings of the Representative Meeting gained general approval, as did the recommendation that members of Representative Meeting should tell their Monthly and Quarterly Meetings of Representative Meeting activities.

Alice Miller, chairman of the Nominating Committee, gave the report for this Committee.

*Treasurers' Reports—Audit and Budget—Trustees—Friends Fiduciary Corporation—Friends Journal*

The evening session brought a change of complexion with the presence of a large number of men friends. The two assistant clerks were the only women on the facing benches. Three treasurers' reports were presented, the two former Yearly Meetings keeping separate accounts until the last day of 1955, merging the two as of that date. There is now one treasury, with a balance at the beginning of the calendar year of $42,548.93.

The Budget Committee recommended a total budget for the ensuing year of $112,696, of which $81,000 will be requested from the Quarterly Meetings, divided on the basis of adult membership as of December 31, 1954. A great number of problems are involved in merging the finances of the two former Yearly Meetings. There is general appreciation of the skill with which the merger has been accomplished.

The Incorporated Trustees now have invested or in cash the sum of $7,929,720, which includes many funds in which the Yearly Meeting has no interest but which have been left with the Trustees for investment. Friends Fiduciary Corporation has in its care a total of $1,421,428, much of which also belongs to various Friends groups and not to the Yearly Meeting. While the functions of the two Trustees groups are somewhat different, hope was expressed that a merger would be possible eventually.

Consolidation of the two Friends papers into the Friends Journal has been accomplished, and at the end of February there was a paid circulation of 5,100, less than half of which goes to Pennsylvania. Copies go to all of the states and into many foreign countries. Friends are reminded that articles must be of broad interest and that there must not be disappointment if the Journal is not devoted to items of purely local interest. Satisfaction was expressed by many Friends with the style and appearance of the magazine; sympathy was also voiced for the editors and the perpetual problem of pleasing all Friends in all places at all times.

A specific concern came to the Meeting for its interest in the Friends Suburban Housing Committee, which has been recently started for the purpose of helping achieve integrated suburban neighborhoods.

**Committee on Education—Friends Education Fund—Religious Education**

Following a period of worship, Rajan Davadas of India, who is now attending Pendle Hill, was introduced to the Meeting.

Robert W. Cope, chairman, introduced the report of the Education Committee. Our schools should be the deep concern of every member of the Yearly Meeting and not just those with children.

The Committee reported the retirement of Isabel Randolph as executive secretary. Isabel has been of inestimable value to the work with the schools. Mary Chapple has been appointed the new executive secretary.

Mary Chapple spoke to one phase of the Friends school program. In every school are “Adventures in Friendships” through community and international contacts. The schools work not only through the A.F.S.C. and the Social Order Committee but also through agencies not directly under the Society of Friends such as the “International Village.”

The Friends Education Fund is closely allied to the Committee on Education. Its report was given by Paul Brown. It is hoped that scholarships will be available so that all Friends children will be financially able to attend our schools.

As Friends we are interested in the education of the whole person. We are interested in the quality of life, the spiritual atmosphere of our schools. We can make a vital contribution to the spiritual quality. One way to do this is by attending the schools’ weekday meetings for worship.

There is a growing need of new teachers with the increasing number of students. The salaries in Friends schools run from $1,000 to $2,000 less than in public schools. Contributions from other Friends are needed as never before.

Dorcas Ensor, chairman, reported for the Religious Education Committee. This year the Curriculum Section has re-issued *What Shall We Teach?* The Worship Section is arranging a Quiet Day for April 26, 1956. The Library Section regrets that fewer books have been borrowed this year and urges Friends to make use of our large loan library. The Adult Section has arranged two kits of materials, one “For Seekers” and one “For New Members.” These events are now being planned under the Teacher Training Section: a teachers' conference at Wrightstown on April 19; a conference at Woodstown on May 19; and the Fall Teacher Training School in Philadelphia, September 15 and 22. The theme of the Fall School will be “A Quaker Concept of God,” and the principal speaker will be William Hubben.

Meetings are urged to provide channels of responsibilities for our young Friends. Look at our committees. Can we give the young people a share in the responsibilities of these concerns?
Young Friends—Westtown—George School

After the reading of the Norway Yearly Meeting Epistle, the clerk extended a word of welcome to W. Macy Lewis of Kansas Yearly Meeting. In reporting about the Young Friends Movement, Paul Lacey stressed that the age covered now is from 15 to 25 years, whereas it formerly had been from 18 to 35. The activities mentioned in the official report (Quaker Haven, Books for Africa, William Penn Lecture, etc.) find their most important supplement in cultivating the fellowship with young Friends in isolated localities and in visits to Meetings. Several Friends stressed the importance of local work. Military service laws are apt to influence the character of the Movement.

John W. Brown followed the reading of the official Westtown report by strongly emphasizing the importance of the religious life of the school for the life of the Society. The percentage of Friends children is increasing. The salary situation of the teachers needs serious study.

John S. Hollister informed the Yearly Meeting that the enlarged George School Committee includes now several members of the former Arch Street Yearly Meeting. William Cadwallader, a senior at George School, presented an impressive sketch of the school’s student government, with its balance between freedom and responsibility. Walter H. Mohr and Richard H. McFeely reminded us of the close link between teaching standards and the spiritual life of youth.

A special minute expressing gratitude for the outstanding service of retiring Board members was adopted for Richard M. Sutton and Horace Burton (Westtown), and Arthur C. Jackson and D. Watson Atkinson (George School). George A. Walton added a personal tribute to Arthur Jackson’s statesmanlike leadership.

Daniel Test, Jr., headmaster of Westtown, addressed a moving appeal to Friends to support our system of private education. No child should be barred for financial reasons. The Yearly Meeting should realize its paramount duty to provide greater means for its schools and their eminent task in the religious training of the young people under their care.

Raymond Wilson expressed the hope that both schools will motivate young people to dedicate themselves to unpopular causes in public life, such as are implied in our testimonies.

The joint interests of both schools seemed at times to ignore boundary lines in the scheduled agenda. The discussion moved back and forth from one school to another in the spirit of fraternal closeness, truly a manifestation of fellowship in our newly found unity.

American Friends Service Committee—Friends Committee on National Legislation

M. Albert Linton presided at this special session held under the auspices of the American Friends Service Committee and the Friends Committee on National Legislation.

Edward Snyder of the F.C.N.L. and Kathleen Hanstein of the A.F.S.C. presented facts about the present immigration laws and recommended changes. At times our immigration policy may be an instrument of our foreign policy. In the McCarran-Walter Act the following changes are recommended:

 allocation of new quotas without discrimination against nationality, race, or culture, and recognition of the right of peoples to move about freely and make their home anywhere in the world. The 1952 Refugee Relief Act expires December 31 of this year. Of the total of 209,000 persons allowed to come in under this Act, 154,000 assurances have been filed, but only 68,000 persons have arrived. Friends have done well in providing 228 assurances covering 748 persons. More needs to be done.

Samuel Marble, president of Wilmington College, and E. Raymond Wilson of the F.C.N.L. presented the current situation on disarmament. Since Friends have a long standing interest in disarmament, it is important they understand that (1) there is more flexibility on the international scene than there has been. There is a spirit of seeking. (2) Russia and the U.S.A. have been growing closer together on this issue. (3) There is considerable sentiment for disarmament in other parts of the world. (4) We need to recognize that there is no strong public opinion for disarmament in this country now. Americans need to face up to what disarmament would mean to them in terms of a major economic shift.

We need to work for total disarmament with an inspection system, realizing that it will not be perfect. In working for disarmament it was pointed out that we have to give people some positive program and a feeling of security. It was proposed that Friends make some further protest to the President regarding future atom bomb tests. It was approved that this be called to the attention of the Peace Committee in the hope that the Committee might bring this up in its report on the following Monday.

(To Be Continued)

The Living Word

When “prevent” means “precede”

THE word “prevent” is used 15 times in the King James Version of the Old Testament and twice in the New Testament, but always in the now obsolete sense of “go before,” “anticipate,” or “precede” (a meaning immediately derived from the Latin prae, before, plus venire, to come). When the Psalmist says (119:147), “I prevented the dawning of the morning,” the present-day reader of the King James Version is mystified. He may then consult the Revised Version of 1901, where he will read, “I anticipated the dawning of the morning,” by which he will probably understand that the writer eagerly looked forward to the dawn. The Revised Standard Version expresses the meaning of the Hebrew clearly, “I rise before dawn.” This is part of the description of the devotional habits of a pious Hebrew who rises before the dawn to begin the day with meditation and prayer. In the following verse 148, “Mine eyes prevent the night watches” is now translated “My eyes are awake before the watches of the night.”
When Peter came to Jesus to report that they were asked to pay the half-shekel tax, (Matthew 17:25), the King James Version says that Jesus “prevented him.” That does not mean that he kept Peter from speaking; it means simply that Jesus spoke to him first. When Paul tells the Thessalonians, anxious to know what will happen on the last great day, that “we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep” (1 Thessalonians 4:15 KJ), he is not thinking of a possible attempt to keep the dead in their tombs; he is saying simply that those who are alive will not precede the dead to the triumphant meeting with the Lord.

In the other cases the Revised Standard Version replaces “prevent” with “meet” (Psalm 21:3; 59:10; Isaiah 21:14; Amos 9:10), “come to meet” (Job 30:27; Psalm 79:8), “come before” (Psalm 88:13), “come upon” (2 Samuel 22:19—Psalm 18:18), “confront” (2 Samuel 22:6—Psalm 18:5), “receive” (Job 3:12), and “has given to” (Job 41:11). The Hebrew word thus translated is qadam, the basic idea of which is to come or be in front or beforehand. The appropriate English word therefore depends upon the context. The King James Version translated qadam in eleven other instances by “meet,” “come before,” “go before,” “disappoint,” and “before.”

I will send a list of these instances, with chapter and verse numbers, to anyone who requests it.

LUTHER A. WEIGLE

Internationally Speaking

(Continued from page 270)

possible for the United Nations to find means of restraining both sides from fighting and to reduce frontier incidents. If fighting can be prevented, the healing effect of time and progress at economic development, reclamation of arid land and refugee settlement, together with reduction of tension between the United States and the Soviet Union, may have an opportunity to dissolve a conflict for which no immediate solution is possible. It is sometimes important to know how to live with problems not yet ripe for solution.

Other than Military Methods

President Gronchi of Italy during his recent visit to the United States took occasion to emphasize the fact that arms and alliances are not enough. He contemplates the growth of a system for the peaceful settlement of disputes and urges more stress on that aspect of NATO and the Atlantic Council, as well as on the Council of Europe and the United Nations. “Economic cooperation in an age like ours,” he told Congress, “is not a burden or a mere act of generosity. It is a policy consonant with the interest of each and all concerned.”

Disarmament Subcommittee

The U.N. Disarmament Subcommittee now meeting in London has before it suggestions for gradually stopping the production of nuclear weapons as well as for “open skies” inspection and observation at ports and key mobilization centers. Both the Soviet Union and the United States are reported to be favorably impressed by a French suggestion that these arrangements be supplemented by moves for some immediate reduction of arms.

El Cetera

Through the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, the Central American countries and Mexico have been successful in a joint program to check the ravages of locusts which began to devastate crops in 1945. Efforts by each nation separately had been much more expensive and largely ineffective. Through the U.N. Technical Assistance Program, the F.A.O. has been able to send a Greek and a Spaniard, experts who aided the research that made the joint program effective. Since 1951 there has been no large-scale devastation by locusts; the program seems able to prevent future outbreaks. Before the joint program was set up, the individual nations were spending millions of dollars each annually in ineffective separate efforts; the effective joint program arranged through F.A.O. costs altogether much less.

The week beginning May 20 has been designated by the President as World Trade Week. It will be a good opportunity for Monthly Meeting Peace Committees and other groups to call attention to the importance of reducing the obstacles to international trade, as a contribution to peace, welfare, and security.

March 24, 1956

RICHARD R. WOOD

Friends and Their Friends

The second in the 1956 series of Pendle Hill Pamphlets is Blake’s Fourfold Vision by Harold C. Goddard. The pamphlet is available for 35 cents a copy from Pendle Hill or Friends bookstores.

“William and Mary Nute,” notes the Cambridge, Mass., Meeting Newsletter for March, “plan shortly to return to Turkey, where William will resume his work as a physician under the American Board of Missions.”

The fifth anniversary of the death of Fred Barlow, formerly of Paris Meeting, was commemorated by the giving of a talk and a program of his chamber music on the French radio. His romantic ballet Gladys was presented at the Theatre in Mulhouse, his birthplace.
Dr. Henry Joel Cadbury, one of the country's best known Friends and Bible scholars, has been elected chairman of the Board of Directors of Bryn Mawr College. He fills the office held by Charles J. Rhoads, a trustee and director for 50 years, who died on January 2, 1956.

Dr. Cadbury has been a trustee of Bryn Mawr since 1948, when he was elected to succeed the late Rufus M. Jones. Since 1944 Dr. Cadbury has been chairman of the American Friends Service Committee and in 1947 represented the Committee in Stockholm to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. Dr. Cadbury was for 20 years on the faculty of Harvard University, where he was Hollis Professor of Divinity, the oldest endowed chair in the United States. He retired in 1954 and is now professor emeritus. He is the author of many books on biblical literature, his most recent being The Book of Acts in History. He is also a member of the committee that prepared the recent Revised Standard Bible.

Since his retirement from Harvard, Dr. Cadbury has been a lecturer at Bryn Mawr and Haverford Colleges, and at Pendle Hill, the Quaker study center at Wallingford, Pa., where he makes his home.

Also announced was the election of Thomas Raeburn White of Philadelphia as president of the trustees, a position which Charles J. Rhoads also held. Thomas R. White, a lawyer, has been a trustee of Bryn Mawr since 1907. Two trustees of the College, Elizabeth Gray Vining, the author, and J. Edgar Rhoads, a manufacturer of Wilmington, Del., were elected vice presidents.

Kermit and Mary Whitehead of New Providence, Iowa, have joined the staff of the American Friends Service Committee at Barpali, Orissa, India, where a village development program was started in 1952. The project's pattern is rather similar to the one recently interrupted by disturbances in Jordan, where Kermit Whitehead served for nearly a year as one of two American agriculturists on the staff. The goal of the program is to augment the work of technicians by encouraging the help of villagers in improving conditions of health, agriculture, local industry, education, and participation in self-government. At the present time 36 villages, with a total population of about 40,000, are being reached by the program.

Albert Buzby of Woodstown, N. J., Monthly Meeting is the new president of the Salem County, N. J., Board of Agriculture. Elected to office with him was David Grier, treasurer, also a member of Woodstown Meeting.

Derek Collier of Winchmore Hill Meeting, England, has been appointed leader of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, England.

The Virginia Exiles by Elizabeth Gray Vining was reprinted in the Bulletin Book of the Week, Philadelphia, for Sunday, March 4, 1956.

The American Legion, Eddy Glover Post No. 6 has conferred its distinguished service citation on Joan Herman, a member of Hartford Monthly Meeting, Conn., for her unselfish efforts for years in behalf of the March of Dimes Program. Joan has also been one of the most active participants in the organization of New Horizons, an organization dedicated to adventuresome living of the physically handicapped, which is about to celebrate in April its first birthday. She is also editor of the bulletin New Horizons, Inc., which appears three to four times a year.

St. Petersburg Meeting, Florida, was again host to the annual All-Florida Friends Conference, March 10 and 11, 1956. Perhaps this Seventh Conference might be thought of as the most significant and best attended. There is a definite inclination toward the organization of a Yearly Meeting in Florida. Quaker roots are growing deeper, and the local Meetings are growing in increased activity and in alertness to major concerns of our Society.

Reports were presented from the following areas: Miami, West Palm Beach, Daytona Beach, Jacksonville, Gainesville, Clearwater, Bradenton-Sarasota, St. Petersburg, and Orlando. There was also a report from Augusta, Ga., where the Meeting is small but increasingly active in the social and economic problems of that area.

Florida Friends have a special opportunity for contacts with Friends in Cuba and Jamaica.

The Conference appointed a committee, with Caroline N. Jacob as chairman, to study the matter of the growth of Quakerism toward a Yearly Meeting in Florida. There are four organized Monthly Meetings in the state, with the prospect of a fifth this year.

Alice Howland Macomber presented a summary of epistles from the Yearly Meetings around the world with the major concerns of such Meetings as New Zealand, Madagascar, Denmark, Jamaica, Philadelphia, Ohio, Indiana, New England, and Canada.

The Conference was especially favored in having William B. Edgerton as guest speaker for the afternoon. His subject was "A Quaker Visits Russia." With the aid of pictures he presented an excellent cross section of the intimate life of Russian folk.

The subject of integration was a major item in the hearts and minds of the Conference attenders. Aid and support are given the Council on Human Relations. Legislation is ahead of local performance as regards this issue. There is need for interpretation, along with compliance.

John and Charlotte Vaughan of Deland were again in attendance at the Conference after a year of travel and teaching in Pakistan.

The St. Petersburg Meeting urged the enactment of a bill which would prohibit the sale of alcoholic beverages on any plane in flight. It also urged that the atomic tests be suspended to ease world tensions, and that the production and testing of intercontinental missiles be banned.

ALEX. C. ROBINSON, Recording Clerk
Elias Hicks Memorial Celebration

On Sunday, March 18, when the sun rose with just a hint of spring in the air, Friends in Jericho, N. Y., relaxed after the near blizzard of the previous Friday and happily remarked how fortunate it was to have such a day for one of the most important and significant events in recent Quaker history, the premiere of the biography "Elias Hicks, Quaker Liberal" by Bliss Forbush, headmaster of Friends School, Baltimore, Md. Unfortunately their optimism was short-lived, for by mid-afternoon Long Island was again in the grip of even more severe snow, ice, and wintry gales. Nevertheless, it was a day to be long remembered.

Those who attended Jericho Meeting in the morning heard stimulating and inspiring messages from Kennedy Sinclair, Bliss Forbush, Marshall Taylor, George Hossfeld, and Frederick Tolles. At the close of meeting Friends gathered at the grave of Elias Hicks, where Marshall Taylor in a few well-chosen words paid tribute to his memory and quoted from Whittier, the Quaker poet.

In the afternoon, despite the weather, about 125 people attended a tea in honor of Bliss Forbush at the Friends Community Center, Westbury, N. Y. With delightful humor he reviewed the nine years spent in preparatory research for his book and the actual writing of it. He expressed his deep appreciation of the kindly and invaluable criticism of his wife, LaVerne Forbush, of Frederick B. Tolles, "godfather of the book," and many others. Quotations from the writings of Elias Hicks revealed him as a tender, loving husband and father, a good neighbor, a successful farmer (aided in no small degree by the competent management of his wife, Jemima); a useful citizen interested in social questions of his time, such as the abolition of slavery; an educator; a minister preaching the doctrine of the Inner Light; and a "Quaker liberal, who combined this teaching with the use of human reason." At the tea hour which followed, the eight hostesses at the tea tables were descendants of Elias Hicks.

Letters to the Editor

Letters are subject to editorial revision if too long. Anonymous communications cannot be accepted.


Doylestown, Pa. HELEN W. WILLIAMS

I am in complete accord with the views of Inga Bergman as expressed in her letter in Friends Journal, January 14. Her criticisms are fully justified. Why have we left so far behind the plainness of the early Friends?

Speaking of introductions, Rufus Jones once said he had suffered more from poor introductions than from lumbago.

Our New York Yearly Meeting Book of Discipline advised Friends to be guarded in their conduct and conversation (so much of what we say is unnecessary and unwise), to avoid the vain fashions of the world, and to observe simplicity in the furnishings of our homes and tables. We have thrown to the winds the sincerity, simplicity, and serenity of 300 years ago.

The last day of the Stockholm Yearly Meeting in 1954 at Per Sundberg School, friends of the Friends were invited. I noticed that a few wore earrings, but I think they were the friends, not Friends.

Man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.

Matapoisett, Mass. HELEN M. HILLER

Palmer R. Huey's letter (March 10) says that we should "employ psychological methods in our religious education enterprise." I feel that psychology is as complicated and potentially dangerous as medicine. To continue his simile of the teaching of medicine and religion, I should hate to be treated by a doctor whose medical training had been given by amateur volunteers one hour a week.

I agree that our children must have the teaching which will "train the individual to cultivate wholesome mental and emotional habits." But this kind of training is too deep-seated to be given during the brief contacts of our First-day schools; it must be lived, either in the family or in a full-time school.

If an individual teacher is qualified, he will inevitably use the psychological methods with which he is familiar, but we should not urge all our teachers to do so.

Belmont, Mass. NORA GLADWIN FAIRBANK

Coming Events

APRIL

7—Ohio Valley Friends Conference at Hyland Creek Meeting House near Salem, Indiana, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friends from Kentucky, Indiana, and Ohio are planning to attend.

7—London Grove Forum at the London Grove Meeting House, Pa. 8 p.m.: M. Munzer Makansi, formerly from Syria, "The Religion of Islam." Discussion following. All welcome.


8— Appointment meeting for worship at Burlington, N. J., Meeting House, 5 p.m., followed by an address at 4 p.m.: Lawrence McK. Miller, Jr., general secretary, Friends General Conference, "Christian Resources for Today."

15—Open meeting of the Committee on Education of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Business meeting, 4:30 p.m., Room I, 1515 Cherry Street, Philadelphia; dinner, 6 p.m., Friends Select School, 17th Street and Parkway; panel discussion, "Exploring New Dimensions," auditorium, Friends Select School, 7 to 9 p.m.: "Teaching with Television" by Burton P. Fowler, "What Will WHY Mean to Us?" by Paul B. Blanshard, Jr., "Flannel Boards to Films" by George M. Miller, and "Leadership or Fellowship?" by Alexander M.
MacColl, with E. Newbold Cooper, chairman of the Friends Council on Education, as moderator.

13—Meeting of the Friends Council on Education with the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Committee on Education, 7 to 9 p.m., Friends Select School, 17th Street and Parkway, Philadelphia. Note change of date from April 12. There will be no business meeting of the Council at this time.

14—Illustrated Lecture at Fair Hill Meeting House, Germantown and Cambria Street, Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m. H. Clifford Lester, chemical engineer with the Atlantic Refining Company, will talk about his experiences in rural Mexico in connection with the A.F.S.C. work project.

15—Conference Class of Race Street First-day School, Philadelphia, 11:40 a.m.: “Faith and Practice—Education, Social Customs, God and Human Diversity.” Leader, William Eves, Sr.

19—Friends Forum at the Chest, Pa., Meeting House, 24th and Chestnut Streets, 8 p.m.: Gilbert Kilpack, “The Holy Spirit and the Inner Light.”

21—Western Quarterly Meeting at London Grove, Pa., 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Worship and Ministry, 9 a.m. Richmond P. Miller will speak in the afternoon on the work of Overseers. Lunch will be served.

21, 22—Northwest Half-Yearly Meeting at the Victoria, B. C., Meeting House, 1831 Fern Street. Saturday, business meeting, 5:30 p.m.; supper, 5:30 p.m.; evening session, 7 p.m.: special speaker, Eubanks Carner of Riverside, Calif., “The World Conference and Committee for Consultation.” Sunday, meeting for worship, 11 a.m.: light luncheon, 12:30 p.m.

22—Chester Quarterly Meeting on Worship and Ministry at Springfield, Pa., Meeting House, 3 p.m. The Second Query will be discussed.

BIRTHS

COPPOCK—On February 16, in Indianapolis, to Paul and Anne Crosman Copcock, a son named James Crosman Copcock. The father is a member of West Newton Monthly Meeting, Indiana; the mother, of Media Monthly Meeting, Pa. The grandparents are A. Hurford and Alice F. Pock. The father is a member of West Newton Monthly Meeting, Ind.; the mother, of Media Monthly Meeting, Pa. The grandparents are A. Hurford and Alice F. Pock. The father is a member of West Newton Monthly Meeting, Ind.; the mother, of Media Monthly Meeting, Pa.

LACEY—On March 21, to Philip G. and Diane Elizabeth Lacey of Scotia, N. Y., a son named James Allen Lacey. He is the grandson of Stanley H. and Florence Cocks Daniels of Madison, N. J., and the second great-grandson of Isaac M. Cocks of Cornwall-on-Hudson, N. Y.

LANGWORTHY—On January 15, at Charlotte, Vermont, to Garfield S. and Frances Jean Langworthy, a daughter named Katherine Frances Langworthy. The mother and grandparents, Charles L. and Mary Emma McVaugh, are members of Newtown, Pa., Monthly Meeting.

THATCHER—On March 3, to Edward and Monette Thacher of Eugene, Oregon, a son named Jay Warren Thatcher, a birthright member of Eugene Preparative Meeting, Oregon. He is a grandson of Charles and Angeline Thatcher of Swarthmore, Pa.

MARRIAGE

HOUSER-AYRES—On March 24, at Stout Memorial Meeting House, Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana, and under the care of Clear Creek Meeting, Carolyn Isobell Ayres, daughter of John U. and Alice Hutchinson Ayres of Westfield, N. J., and Argyll Clark Houser, son of Reverend and Mrs. Argyll Clark of Rochelle, Illinois. The bride is a member of Summit, N. J., Monthly Meeting.

DEATH

SMITH—On March 16, in an automobile accident, William Thomas Smith of Lincoln, Va., aged 77 years, a member of Goose Creek United Monthly Meeting, Va. He was a prominent dairy farmer and a leader in Loudoun County school and community affairs.

William Smith was born in Lincoln, Va., the son of Edward J. and Mary Hannah Brown Smith. He graduated from George School in 1898 and attended Swarthmore College and Cornell University. His first wife, Bertha Pancost Smith, died in 1953. He is survived by his second wife, Lillian Piggott Smith, four daughters and a son, a sister, nine grandchildren, and three step-children.

At a service in Goose Creek Meeting House on March 19, Theodate Wilson Souder, one of the several Friends who spoke, said in part: "Somehow he lent a special quality to any group or meeting where he was. Quietly, unhurriedly, considerately, and thoughtfully he could be counted on to contribute his own thinking and to listen with interest and respect to others. He had faith in himself, in his associates, in life, in God—a dynamic faith which always entailed action. When it seemed that something needed doing, he was ready to take it on."

REGULAR MEETINGS

ARIZONA

PHOENIX—Meeting for worship, 19 a.m., 17th Street and Glendale Avenue, James Dewees, Clerk, 1928 West Mitchell.

TUCSON—Friends Meeting, 120 North Warren Avenue. Worship, First-days at 11 a.m. Clerk, John A. Salyer, 745 East Fifth Street, Tuscon 2-3662.

CALIFORNIA

CLAIREMONT—Friends meeting, 9:30 a.m. on Scripps campus, 9th and Columbia. Ferner Nunn, Clerk, 460 W. 8th.

BERKELEY—Friends meeting, First-days at 11 a.m., northeast corner of Vine and Walnut Streets. Monthly meetings, the last First-day of each month, after the meeting for worship. Clerk, William Allen Longshore, Jr.

PASADENA—Orange Grove Monthly Meeting. Meeting for worship, East Orange Grove at Oakland Avenue. First-days at 11 a.m. Monthly meetings, 8 p.m., the second Fourth-day of each month.

SAN FRANCISCO—Meetings for worship, First-days, 11 a.m., 1830 Sutter Street.

CONNECTICUT

HARTFORD—Meeting for worship, 11 a.m. at the Meeting House, 144 South Quaker Lane, West Hartford.
ILLINOIS

CHICAGO-The 57th Street Meeting of all Friends. Sunday worship hour, 11 a.m. at Quaker House, 5615 Woodlawn Avenue. Monthly meeting (following 6 p.m. supper there) every first Friday. Telephone Butlerfield 6-9086.

INDIANA

INDIANAPOLIS—Independent Friends meeting. Unprogrammed meetings in homes, 6 p.m., first Saturday of month. Contact Esther L. Parshar, MH 4097.

IOWA

DES MOINES—Friends Meeting, 801 Forest Avenue, for worship, 10 a.m.; classes, 11 a.m.

KENTUCKY

LOUISVILLE—Meeting for worship and First-day school, 10:30 a.m. on Sundays at Neighborhood House, 5890 South First Street Telephone 8 7110.

LOUISIANA

NEW ORLEANS—Friends meeting each Sunday. For information telephone WA 3890 or UP 8246W.

MASSACHUSETTS

CAMBRIDGE—Meeting for worship each First-day at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.; 6 Longfellow Park (near Harvard Square), Telephone TR 6-8885.

Worcester—Pleasant Street Friends Meeting. Meeting for worship each First-day, 11 a.m. Telephone PE 4-3887.

MINNESOTA

MINNEAPOLIS—Friends Meeting. 44th Street and York Avenue South. First-day school at 11 a.m. For worship, 11 a.m. Richard P. Newby, Minister, 442 Abbott Avenue South, Telephone WA 6-9676.

MISSOURI

KANSAS CITY—Penn Valley Meeting, 806 West 38th Avenue. Unprogrammed worship each Sunday at 11 a.m., visiting Friends always welcome. For information call JA 1536.

ST. LOUIS—Meeting for worship, Sundays at 11 a.m. Locust Street, For information call FL 2116.

NEW MEXICO

SANTA FE—Meeting for worship each First-day at 11 a.m. at the Garcia Street Club, 566 Garcia Street.

NEW JERSEY

DOVER—Randolph Meeting House, Quaker Church Road. First-day school, 11 a.m.; meeting for worship, 11:15 a.m.

THOUGHTFUL FRIENDS who have found value in the NEWSLETTER

BETWEEN THE LINES

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For appointments with Dr. Lovett Devere write him at Glen Mills, Pa., or telephone Valleybrook 2474.

For information about first-day schools telephone Friends Central Bureau, Kittenhouse 6-3260.

READING—108 North Sixth Street, First-day school at 10 a.m.; meeting for worship at 11 a.m.

STATE COLLEGE—412 South Atherton Street. First-day school at 9:30 a.m.; meeting for worship at 10:45 a.m.

WASHINGTON

SEATTLE—University Friends Meeting, 1044 West 6th Avenue, Seattle, 10 a.m.; discussion period and First-day school, 11 a.m. Telephone MiRoSe 9883.

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