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Forty-First Annual Report of the Council.

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FORTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

NOTWITHSTANDING the increasing difficulties caused by the long duration of the war, the Society has continued to hold its meetings during the past year, and generally they have been well attended.

Sixteen new members have been enrolled during the year, and three libraries have been added to the list of subscribers. On the other side of the account there have been nine deaths and twenty resignations, so that the members of the Society are diminished by ten, and there are now only 394 members and subscribers on the roll as against 404 a year ago.

Among the members who have died are Dr. Walker, Miss S. Morison, and Mr. Thurstan Peter, who was one of the very few representatives of the Society in the west country, where it is to be hoped that it may be more fully represented in the future than at present.

Considering the many and various calls the war has made on the energies of the country, the Council think the Society is to be congratulated on having kept its numbers at so high a level : and now that peace is well in sight, they hope that before they issue their next Annual Report the Society will be as flourishing as it was in its palmiest days.

The amount received in subscriptions during the year was £386 8s. od., which was £13 more than in 1917 ; and of this amount a larger proportion even than a year ago represented arrears.

Meetings of the Society have been held as follows, viz. :—

- 23rd January. "The Influence of Burial Customs on the Belief in a Future State." Mrs. Holland.
20th February. (Annual Meeting.) Presidential Address: "The Transvaluation of Culture." Dr. R. R. Marett.
20th March. "The House in India in its Sociological and Folklore Aspects." Mr. W. Crooke.
17th April. "Magic and Religion." Mr. N. W. Thomas.
15th May. "Some Mythical Tales of the Lapps." Mr. C. J. Billson; and "The Mediæval Legend of the Terrestrial Paradise." Mr. M. Esposito.
19th June. "Further Studies in Irish Folk-lore." Miss Moutray Read.
20th November. "The Rosary in Magic and Religion." Miss Blackman.

Miss Blackman's paper was profusely illustrated by lantern slides, and elicited an interesting discussion. Mr. A. R. Wright at the same meeting exhibited a collection of rosaries, and Miss Burne a rosary picked up by a soldier on the battlefield of Tel-el-Kebir.

The Council regret that so few objects of folklore interest have been exhibited during the year, and they venture to express the hope that members and friends will not hesitate to bring with them to the meetings any objects illustrative of the papers announced to be read.

Several additions have been made to the Society's library during the year, particulars of which have been duly noted in *Folk-Lore*. Members are reminded that they may borrow books from the library, which is housed at University College, subject to the regulations laid down by the Council, particulars of which may be obtained on application to Dr. R. W. Chambers, the Hon. Librarian at the College.

The twenty-ninth volume of *Folk-Lore* has been issued during the year. The cost of paper and labour has again considerably increased, and the Council have in consequence found it necessary further to reduce the size of the volume, and to dispense with illustrations. Even so, the cost of the volume is more than double what it was in pre-war days. In these circumstances the Council have been reluctantly compelled to defer the issue of any additional volume for

the present. A year hence they will be in a position to take stock of the financial position of the Society, and should the cost of paper and printing be sensibly diminished it is possible that they may be able to issue an additional volume in 1920. They fear, however, that they may by that time have lost the opportunity of publishing several MSS. which have been offered to them.

Owing to the regrettable illness of Miss Burne, who has succeeded Dr. Wheatley as Editor-in-Chief of the material in course of collection for a new edition of Brand's calendar customs of Brand's *Popular Antiquities*, there is no report to hand from the Brand Committee. The Council, however, are pleased to announce that they have received a generous contribution of £20 from an anonymous donor for the work of the Committee, and they have reason to know that a considerable amount of spade-work has been done during the year. It is feared that Miss Burne's illness will prevent her resuming the direction of the work, but the Committee are making arrangements for carrying it on with as little dislocation as possible. The Council wish to place on record their profound appreciation of Miss Burne's services, and their most sincere regret that she feels at present unable to complete the task into which she had thrown such unstinted energy and enthusiasm.

The sales of the Society's publications for the year 1917 amounted to £25 15s. 7d. only. In view of the disorganisation caused by the war, no larger return could reasonably have been expected. Both Mr. Sidgwick and Mr. Jackson have been on active service throughout the year, and no account of the sales of the Society's publications in 1918 is yet available. There is no reason, however, to expect that they will fall short of those in the previous year.

A sum of £30 has been received on account of the sales of salvage stock. A large number of volumes, however, still remain unsold, and may be inspected by intending purchasers at Messrs. H. F. Fayers & Co.'s warehouse,

Bishop's Court, Old Bailey, E.C., where they are stored. Mr. C. J. Tabor, of the White House, Knotts Green, Essex, has kindly undertaken to be responsible for their sale. The price is 4s. per volume, with all faults, carriage paid.

In order to effect further economies the Council omitted the meeting in December, and decided not to provide tea before the meetings. But after the end of the present session it is hoped that the old order of things may be restored.

The Cash Account and Balance Sheet for the year are submitted herewith.

A. C. HADDON,
President.

CASH ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1918.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
By Balance brought down,	- - - £401 6 0	To <i>Folk-Lore</i> :-	
" Subscriptions for 1918 (322),	- - - £338 2 0	Printing Parts 2, 3, 4, 1917,	£221 14 4
" " " 1917 and earlier years (38),	39 18 0	" Parts 1 and 2, 1918,	125 7 10
" " " 1919, in advance (8),	8 8 0		£347 2 2
Interest on Investments,	- - - £27 3 9	" Expenses of Meetings :-	
" " Money on deposit,	- - - 6 2 6	Hire of Rooms,	£4 3 0
		Refreshments,	4 4 5
" Income Tax returned,	- - - - -	" Binding of Stock,	- - -
" Sales of Stock, 1917,	- - - - -	" Expenses of Management :-	
" Salvage Stock,	- - - - -	Insurances,	£16 14 7
" Anonymous gift for Brand Committee,	- - - - -	Postages, Stationery, and Printing,	13 2 2
		Rent of Telephone,	2 12 6
		Warehousing Stock,	10 10 0
		Brand Committee,	15 0 0
		Secretary's Salary, and Allowances,	59 0 0
		Miscellaneous,	0 13 8
			117 12 11
		" Expenses of Distribution of Publications, 1917,	- - - 16 5 9
		" Publishers' Commission on Sales,	- - - 24 0 7
		" Balance in Bank on current account,	£185 15 1
		" " " on deposit,	200 0 0
		" " " in hands of Secretary,	4 2 11
			389 18 0
			£905 13 4

BALANCE SHEET, 31st DECEMBER, 1918.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
To Sundry Creditors,	£162 2 1	By Cash at Bankers,	£385 15 1
" Brand Committee,	30 0 0	" " in hands of Secretary,	4 2 11
" Composition Fees,	£15 17 0	" S. and J. Sales Debtors (Sales in 1918),	£389 18 0
Less written off,	7 7 0	" + Subscriptions in arrear, 1918 (32),	32 0 11
" Secretary's Pounding,	8 10 0	" " 1917 and earlier years (13),	13 13 0
" Balance to credit of Society,*	20 6 0	" Investments as at Dec. 31st, 1918 :—	47 5 0
	988 5 10	£500 Canada, 3½% Stock at 73,	365 0 0
		£500 Natal, 3½% Stock at 75,	375 0 0
			£1,209 3 11

In addition to the above there is a large stock of Publications of the Society, and also bound copies of the salvage stock, of which no account is taken.

* No allowance has been made for additional volumes for the years 1915 to 1918 inclusive.

† Exclusive of £76 15s. od. due from members in belligerent countries.

The diminution of the items of subscriptions in arrear must not be taken as indicating that a number of those appearing in the Balance Sheet of last year have been paid off. It is due to their having been written off as bad debts in accordance with my estimate last year.

Examined with Vouchers and Pass Book and found correct.

EDWARD CLODD, *Hon. Treasurer.*

CHARLES J. TABOR, *Hon. Auditor.*