

## PHILOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

DEAR SIR (OR MADAM),—

The Council of this Society desires to draw your attention to certain new arrangements which it is about to make, with the object of providing greater facilities than exist at present for the publication of original philological work in this country.

The chief feature of the new scheme will be the separate publication of the longer papers, articles, or dissertations read or presented to the Society. Subject to the approval of the Council, and so far as the funds of the Society permit, these will henceforward be included in a series entitled "Publications of the Philological Society", which will be issued in co-operation with the Clarendon Press. All members of the Society will be entitled to copies of these as well as of the "Transactions", and it is expected that it will be possible to issue them with some regularity, perhaps quarterly. The "Transactions" of the Society will still be continued, but in a modified form: they will contain the reports of meetings and all the shorter papers or notes on philological matters, together with abstracts of all the separate publications. In this way the "Transactions" will still contain a full record of the Society's work.

The Council is convinced that by regular publication in this manner, the Society will materially aid the advancement of philological studies in this country. It will gladly take into consideration all offers of articles or dissertations on philological subjects, whether by members or others, and will endeavour as far as possible to include them in its special series. Care will be taken, however, that within certain limits there shall be a proper variety in the subjects of the papers printed. It is assumed that as a rule these will lie within the province of Indo-Germanic (and more particularly of Romanic, Teutonic, and Celtic) Philology.

A certain number of copies of each publication will be printed for separate sale, at such prices as the Council may fix, but it will not be possible to keep all the publications permanently in print. It will therefore be advisable for all scholars and libraries, in order to have a complete set of these, to subscribe for them from the beginning, as in a few years it might be difficult to make up full sets. The support of all persons interested in philological studies,

and of all University and other large libraries, will be of great assistance to the Society in carrying out its new scheme of work. The yearly subscription in all cases is one guinea, and applications for membership should be sent on the enclosed form as early as possible to the Honorary Secretary, Mr. S. Dickson-Brown, M.A., 34 Regent Square, London, W.C.

The present programme for 1912-13 includes the following issues:—

1. *Historical Development of the Norfolk Dialect*, by S. Ransen.
2. *Phonology and Grammar of Modern West Frisian*, by S. Sipma.
3. *Two Middle English Courtesy Books* (Text and Translation), by E. K. Chambers.
4. *The Phonology and Grammar of the Cumbrian Dialect and its relation to Norse*, by B. Brilioth.
5. An edition of *Carel ende Elegast*,<sup>1</sup> to serve as an introduction to the study of Middle Dutch, by Dr. A. J. Barnouw.

Increased membership might enable the Society to produce additional work.

It may not be out of place to remind you that with the present Session the Society will have completed the seventieth year of its existence, and has during that period secured many notable contributions to the advancement of philology, the most important being its foundation of the *New English Dictionary* now in course of publication by the Clarendon Press, and rapidly nearing completion. The "Transactions" of recent years include the following valuable papers:—

- "The Substantive Verb in the Old Irish Glosses," and other papers on Old Irish Grammar, by Professor Strachan.
- "History of Guttural Sounds in English," by H. C. Wyld.
- "John Barbour: Poet and Translator," by G. Neilson.
- "Memoranda on Mediæval Latin," by J. H. Hessels.
- "Contributions to Old English Lexicography," by Professor Napier.
- "Nominale sive Verbale," by Professor Skeat.
- "English Etymology," by Professor Skeat.
- "Transliteration and Pronunciation of Latin *v*," by G. B. Grundy.
- "The Lydgate Canon," by H. N. MacCracken.

<sup>1</sup> Subsequently altered to *Beatrijs*.

With a view to promoting fuller intercourse and exchange of views between the members of the Society, the Council has also decided to hold two special meetings in each year, at a different time to that of the usual Friday meeting (held monthly at University College, Gower Street). The Opening Meeting of each Session will be held on the first Saturday of October at 3 p.m., and the Annual Meeting on the first or second Saturday of April, at the same time. On these occasions only short papers or abstracts of longer ones will be read, and it is hoped that prominent members of the Society will take these opportunities of giving a brief account of any important work which has recently been done in their own special line of study. It is thought that many members who have little opportunity of meeting each other throughout the year may be glad to avail themselves of these opportunities to do so.

The Council therefore appeals to you to aid the Society in this most necessary work by giving it your personal support, and by bringing the new departure to the notice of any one whom you know to be interested in the advancement of philological studies.

W. A. CRAIGIE,

July, 1912.

President.

*Note.*—The above circular (except the note as to *Beatrijs*) is printed exactly as issued, and requires the following warnings. There has been a change of officers, and it is simplest to address all queries to the Honorary Secretary, University College, W.C., without his name, and it may be perceived from the list of publications that the Society has published four of the new "Publications".

Owing to temporary conditions the extra meetings announced are suspended *sine die*.