

## Notes

### DR. ELMER T. CLARK RETIRES

On May 31, 1963, Dr. Elmer T. Clark retired as Executive Secretary of the Association of Methodist Historical Societies and Editor of *Methodist History*. To be sure, his name appeared in the July issue of the magazine as editor, but this was proper inasmuch as it was necessary for him to prepare and send the copy for that issue to the printer before May 31.

The whole church is indebted to Dr. Clark for the great work he has done in the last fifteen years. By his vision, creative ability, enthusiasm, and hard work he has accomplished much for Methodist history. Thanks to his encouragement and guidance, we have strong Historical Associations in four of the Jurisdictions of the church. These organizations in turn are stimulating the annual conference historical societies to do their part in preserving and writing Methodist history. Under Dr. Clark's inspiring leadership, the World Methodist Building has been erected at Lake Junaluska. The Building serves as headquarters for the World Methodist Council and for the Association of Methodist Historical Societies. It houses our library of some 12,000 volumes along with a valuable collection of other Wesleyana and Methodistica. From his own collection Dr. Clark has given many books and other valuable items to the Association. Through the years Dr. Clark has written a number of books in the field of Methodist history. With him as Editor-in-Chief the significant annotated edition of *Asbury's Journal and Letters* was published. At the time of his retirement Dr. Clark had done a considerable amount of work on a proposed Dictionary of World Methodism. This project will be completed as soon as possible under the joint sponsorship of the World Methodist Council and the Association of Methodist Historical Societies. Dr. Clark will continue to have a desk in the World Methodist Building where he will be available to the staff for counsel and where he can greet visitors and friends and explain the Wesleyana and Methodistica in the Building. Dr. and Mrs. Clark expect to spend the coming winter in Birmingham, Alabama; they will return to their home at Lake Junaluska in the spring.

### A WORD FROM THE NEW EDITOR

To me history has always been a most interesting subject. As a lad in grade school I found history easy to learn. As a preacher my parishioners often remarked that there were historical references

in my sermons. In the graduate school I was pleased when my professors agreed that I could use an historical subject for my dissertation. The research and the writing required time and hard work, but it was absorbingly interesting and rewarding.

The past twenty-one years of my life have been given to the pastorate and the district superintendency in the City of St. Louis. I enjoyed the parish ministry and had no intention of leaving it, but when the invitation came to take this position, I was quite willing to accept. I am now privileged to give full time to what I followed as an avocation for many years.

It is not easy to fill the place vacated by Dr. Elmer T. Clark; indeed, I know very well that I cannot fill it; but it is my hope that I may be able to render some service to the church in this post.

At the annual meeting of the Executive Committee of the Association in Philadelphia, April 23 to 25, the President, Bishop T. Otto Nall, at my suggestion, appointed a committee to draft a job analysis for me. I am keeping the committee's paper on my desk. The formidable list of duties and responsibilities includes the following: Edit *Methodist History*, Visit Jurisdictional and annual conference historical societies, Organize Associations in Western and Central Jurisdictions if possible, Edit and publish historical manuscripts, Advise with conferences on the writing of histories, Collect historical materials, Plan anniversaries especially the Bi-centenary of American Methodism, Keep in touch with historical organizations overseas and in other branches of Methodism, Serve as curator of *Methodistica*, Develop shrines and landmarks, Promote Methodist Heritage Sunday, Develop Methodist repositories and exchanges, Help with regional histories, Organize committees on anniversaries, etc.

It occurs to me that the editor of a magazine like *Methodist History* is in a position similar to that of a football coach. If the coach has star players who win consistently, he is hailed as a great coach regardless of his actual proficiency. On the other hand, if his team regularly loses, he is rated as a mediocre or even a poor coach, no matter how much he knows about T-formations, forward passing, and the like. The editor of *Methodist History* is responsible for seeing that good articles on the general subject of Methodist history are written and published. The cooperation of competent students and writers in the field will be appreciated.

### FAVORABLE COMMENTS

As *Methodist History* begins its second year, we are pleased with the favorable reception accorded it. Many are saying that it fills a long felt need in its field.

A letter from a student in England who noted that he would be entering a seminary in the United States this fall, is interesting. He

said that for some reason the April 1963 number of *Methodist History* failed to reach him. He wanted to know if we could mail him a duplicate copy, because, said he, "I do not wish to miss any issues of so valuable a journal."

### Back Issues of METHODIST HISTORY

Some people, as they learn about *Methodist History*, are sending in their subscriptions and at the same time are asking for all back numbers. We are sorry to report that the first issue, October 1962, is exhausted. However, at present we can and will fill orders for all other back numbers at 50 cents per copy.

### RENEWALS NOW DUE

All subscriptions to *Methodist History* which began with the January 1963 number expire with this issue. We hope that all original subscribers will renew. A Renewal Blank will be found in this copy of the magazine. The price is \$2.00 per year. Prompt remittances will be appreciated.

### ANNUAL CONFERENCE JOURNALS

The Annual Conference Journals for 1963 are now coming from the press. Many conference secretaries have already sent copies to us. We thank them for this courtesy.

We would like very much to have one copy of the journal from every annual conference. It is our desire to build up and maintain in the World Methodist Building a complete file of these journals for every conference in the connection.

In our library there are some journals of former years for almost every one of the annual conferences. For some of the conferences our files are nearly complete from 1900 to date, but for most of the conferences there are big gaps for this period and greater gaps still for the years prior to 1900. The cooperation of interested persons will be helpful to us in regard to this matter.

Many pastors keep complete files of their conference journals while they are in the active work. This they should do. When they retire some of them for varying reasons let their conference journals go. Families of deceased ministers sometimes find it inadvisable to try to hold indefinitely conference journals which are passed down to them. Not realizing that some library or historical depository would like to have the journals, they discard them.

If you have annual conference journals you do not wish to keep, particularly old ones, we would like to know about them. You might have some documents that would fill gaps in our files.

Recently the Rev. D. W. Charlton, Kinston, North Carolina, sup-

plied a dozen journals of the Virginia Conference, all of them for years prior to 1896. These minutes came unsolicited to the operator of an antique store, who passed them on to the Rev. Mr. Charlton, and he in turn gave them to our library.

During the summer several annual conference secretaries and conference historians kindly supplied back numbers of their respective conference journals which we needed and for which we are grateful.

### JURISDICTIONAL HISTORICAL MEETINGS

The new editor has attended the Annual Meetings of the Jurisdictional Historical Associations as follows: South Central, Dallas, in February; Northeastern, Washington, in April; Southeastern, Lake Junaluska, and North Central, Adrian, Michigan, in July.

The South Central meeting was limited to an afternoon session. It gave attention to business matters and heard reports from the annual conference societies and from Mrs. John Warnick, curator of the Frederick D. Leete Collection in the Bridwell Library at Southern Methodist University.

The Northeastern group met for a day and a half at Wesley Seminary. There were good papers by Dr. Frank Baker and Dr. Douglas Sanders. The second afternoon was given to a conducted historical tour to the Evans House, the Robert Strawbridge House, and other points in Maryland of special historical interest to Methodists. The group approved a memorial asking the General Conference to adopt an archival policy for its boards and institutions.

The Southeastern Society met for two and one-half days. There were several significant papers by Bishop T. Otto Nall, Bishop Paul N. Garber, Rev. J. B. Cain, and others. Ample time was given for reports from annual conference societies.

The North Central Society was in session a day and a half at Adrian. This group is interested in developing a new and more appropriate marker for the graves of Methodist ministers. A committee that had done considerable work on the project was continued. There were interesting papers by Dr. Frank W. Stephenson, Dr. Margaret B. Macmillan, and President John H. Dawson of Adrian College.

The Southeastern and South Central Associations receive appropriations from Jurisdictional funds. The other two groups are supported by donations from annual conference societies. The North Central organization resolved to ask for \$1,000 per year from Jurisdictional funds in the new quadrennium.

Copies of some of the papers read at the Jurisdictional meetings have come to the Editor. The one by Bishop Nall appears in this issue. Others will be used later on.