

BIO-DYNAMIC AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION
FOUNDED ON THE WORK OF RUDOLF STEINER

Annual Report 1952.

Dear Members,

The chief event of this year has been the Anthroposophical Conference "The Awakening of the Twentieth Century" at which we took an active part. This was held at Bedford College in London where a fine room was put at our disposal in which we tried to give a picture of our work. A few Members had sent soil samples showing how compost and the preparations transform soil in the course of a few years. The Preparations were most beautifully exhibited with the growing plants, the rock crystal and the cow horns, so arranged as to give a real impression of what our Preparations are, On the Farming Table there were photographs and plans of three farms showing their rotations and general make up, and these were backed by sheaves of corn just cut at the commencement of harvest. The Herb Table not only showed the great variety of herbs which are used in the kitchen and for medicinal purposes but also made a very lovely exhibit of the qualities and virtues of the plant world. In their midst was a very beautiful comb of honey and a cake of beeswax. Mr Wood brought some very interesting pictures and working diagrams of the movement of millers' stones, besides other exhibits associated with milling. There were two book tables, the one showing some thing of the wealth of publications which there have been in this and other countries, and the second table for those books and pamphlets which we have for sale. The room was decorated with many flowers and hanging on the walls one or two examples of Miss Whicher's fine and delicate plant pictures, a very remarkable coloured photograph of the movement of the sun in the Arctic Circle on midsummer's day, and some astronomical charts. These latter, although in no way spectacular, led to some of the most fruitful discussions.

Miss Thornton had undertaken the arrangement of the room and to her our thanks are chiefly due. A dozen or so Members had offered their cooperation and help. On the morning in which we all arrived with our parcels and plants I think not one of us imagined how satisfactory and complete our exhibition would be particularly for the purpose for which it was designed: to stimulate conversation. A few of our Members undertook to man the room during all the hours it! was open, and I would like to pay my tribute, not being able myself to be there all the time, to those who saw it through to the end.

We had three sessions in the small lecture hall, devoted to agricultural discussions. It was impossible of course to touch all aspects, but by means of a symposium on the first day, and short addresses by Mrs. Brocklebank, Dr Mier and Dr Lehrs, each followed by a lively discussion, at our other two sessions I think all the chief essentials were catered for. We had good attendance at

every session.

I do not usually describe events so fully in my Annual Report, but this being the first time we have taken part in so big a conference and knowing that many of you were not able to be present I feel it right to tell you something of what I consider to be a big step forward in our presentation of the bio-dynamic methods.

Because of this conference in August we did not hold our usual Summer Meeting at Rudolf Steiner House. But we did hold our meeting following our Annual General Meeting last December at which the topic was "Our Preparations". There was also a meeting for Member and Friends at Forest Row held during the conference of the Experimental Circle. An account of this meeting was given in the Secretary's Letter of June. In September our sale was held at Rudolf Steiner House which once again proved an excellent occasion for members to meet one another, and that it went on all day was felt to be a great advantage. The result of the Sale and the primary cause for it will be found in the Treasurer's Report.

The Experimental Circle Conference at Forest Row mentioned above had Two sessions with the teachers of the Rudolf Steiner Schools who held a conference at the same time. The Annual October Conference was held at Clent, at which Dr Heinze, the Secretary of the bio-dynamic work in Germany, was our lecturer. Before long the substance of his lectures will be available in our Study Material series. We have had a number of visits from abroad. Mr Hugo Erbe stayed at Clent Cottage for four days in March. He farms in Southern Germany and some of our Members had exceedingly interesting talks with him. In August Mr Biermann brought Herr Runge and Dr Sigmund to Clent. Herr Runge is in charge of the forests at Hamborn of which Mr John Davy wrote an article in our 'Notes and Correspondence'. Dr Sigmund is also a forester and is in charge of a large state forest. They were both charmed with the English countryside and particularly our trees and hedges.

Under publications this year we have had one new issue of Study Material. Dr B. von Heynitz, The Bio-Dynamic Work in Saxony, 1930-1945. There have been

three reissues: Dr Hauschka's The Nature of Substances in Agriculture; Dr Mier, An Introduction to the Study of the Stars; the Instructions for Compost Making and the Application of the Preparations. It is gratifying that these publications are in such demand, and the old stencils being still good Dr Mier was able to re-issue them with very little expense apart from the paper. Mrs Davy has issued two numbers of 'Notes and Correspondence' and we feel now that it is a journal worthy of a better name. Please send in any suggestions you may have. We very much hope that members will contribute to this paper and also try and find outside subscribers. A new membership list has been issued which will again be brought up to date very shortly. The Leaflet for Enquirers has been revised and reprinted. A copy has been sent to every Member, and I would

like to remind you that they can have these for distribution at 1/- a dozen post free. it is 'The Plant between Sun and Earth' by George Adams and Olive Whicher. It is published by the Goethean Science Foundation and is closely related to the biodynamic work.

Our secretary has had a busy year and much has gone on in the office. Apart from the routine work, the publishing of study Materials, sending out our Secretary's Letters and speaking with many visitors he translated Dr von Heynitz' little book, compiled an index for the new edition of Dr Wachsmuth's 'Erde und Mensch' (Earth And Man) and contributed one or two articles for journals abroad. He and Mrs Mier have welcomed the local Members of the Experimental Circle At Clent cottage on several occasions also the local branch of the Soil Association. He has continued to attend the meetings of the Goethean Science Foundation.

Dr Mier gave a Lecture to the Birmingham Group of the Anthroposophical Society in Great Britain in March, In June he visited Dr. König's Homes at Ringwood and give a course of lectures there. In June and October he lectured in Bristol and also in October gave an astronomical course at Attingham Park Adult Education College (see Secretary's Letter No 8). In March, at the special request of Dr Wachsmuth, Dr Mier attended the Dornach Conference of Doctors, Scientists and Farmers. He also visited the nurseries and research station at Grieshem on his way there (see Notes and Correspondence No 6). In June he paid a private visit to Hamborn in Westphalia for the celebration of the 28th anniversary of the giving of the Agriculture Course. He also accompanied Mr Erbe on his Visit to Camphill. Several Journeys to London had to be undertaken in preparation of the August Conference. At last Dr Mier has been prevailed upon to take a holiday which will be early in the new year. I hope he will enjoy it and that it will do him a lot of good.

I think on the whole it has been a satisfactory year. Our membership has increased as you will see from the Treasurer's Report. Once again I wish to thank those few Members who give so generously of their time and energy in working for our Association and without whose work we could not go on.

As for our plans for the coming year, they will finally be decided upon at the Council Meeting following the Annual General Meeting. But of one event I do wish to write. We are trying to arrange at the end of June or the beginning of July a journey of about 8 days to farms and gardens in Holland and Germany to see how they carry out these methods. It is many years now since Dr Mier took a party to Holland and I think it could be of the greatest stimulus and help if a number of us could make such a journey, there being a great deal more bio-dynamic work to be seen in Germany and Holland than here. I very much that as many of you as possible who are practising farmers and gardeners will avail themselves of this opportunity.

Yours very sincerely

David S. Clement

Chairman.

14th November 1952.