

THE BIBLE TRANSLATOR

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EDITORIAL

It is not too much to say that the United Bible Societies' Committee on Translation has played a most significant part in all the work of that organization from its inception. If the U.B.S. was originally set up as a clearing-house for ideas, there can be little doubt that very many of those ideas have sprung from the thinking, discussion and debate which has been such a creative part of U.B.S. activity ever since the first translations conference at Woudschoten in 1947. This journal has been one of the Committee's main responsibilities. Readers of *The Bible Translator* will be aware that many further aids to translators have come into being under its auspices. They may not be so aware of the extent to which the policies of the translating Bible Societies have been influenced by the innumerable discussions that have been sponsored through the years by this Committee.

For some time many have been thinking that the U.B.S. should play an even greater part in our joint operations, and at our formal committee meeting in September last it was unanimously decided that the Committee should have a permanent Secretary whose main task would be to co-ordinate all its activities and ensure the carrying forward of its decisions. It was generally recognized that the person to discharge these duties would require unusual experience and very considerable gifts. Above all, he would need to command the respect and support not only of the translating Societies but of the very considerable army of translators and revisers whom we all seek to serve through the auspices of the United Bible Societies. We believe that in the Rev. Wesley J. Culshaw, B.A., B.D., we have found such a man. He proved himself as linguist and anthropologist in many years of service with the Methodist Missionary Society in Bengal. During his period of service he was closely involved in the revision of the Santali Bible. He also produced a standard anthropological work on the customs and culture of the Santal people. Subsequently he has shown his skill as a writer in numerous articles, and more particularly in his revision of J. S. M. Hooper's book *Bible Translation in India, Pakistan and Ceylon*. In 1957 he accepted an invitation from the Bible Society of India to succeed the Rev. H. K. Moulton as Translations

Adviser, and for five years gave himself to this work with considerable skill and success. It was during this period that the foundations of the Translations Department of the Bible Society of India were well and truly laid, and the way prepared for the appointment of the first full-time Translations Secretary, the Rev. Chrysostom Arangaden.

For Mr Culshaw, however, this was but the end of a chapter, for he proceeded to Australia where, under the auspices of the B.F.B.S., he was asked to undertake the founding of a similar Translations Department to deal with the languages of Oceania. In all these areas he has travelled widely and familiarized himself with the problems of translators and advisers. He has proved himself a wise and competent guide, and a capable administrator. We may be sure that in his hands the new duties and responsibilities which now come to him will be most capably carried out, and we welcome his appointment as a milestone in the development of the United Bible Societies. The July number of *The Bible Translator* will be the first major responsibility in his new office, but a sample of his writing is included in the current number, in an article on 'Pacific Scripture Translation—A New Phase'.

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The new address of the American Bible Society from April 16th will be:—

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