

3rd. Committee on Discipline of the Society of Friends: and

4th. Committee on Current Topics of Interest to the Society of Friends.

The work of the first three of the Committees (as outlined in the By-Laws) seems very important. The Committee on History is to "take into consideration, with a view to eventually completing a consecutive and accurate outline of all matters pertaining primarily to an historical knowledge of the Society of Friends." The Committee on Literature is to "take into consideration all matters pertaining to the Literature of the Society of Friends, with the view of completing an accurate history thereof;" and the Committee on Discipline is to compare a "complete history of the formation of the Discipline of the Society of Friends; the modifications and changes made there from time to time, and a comparison of the various codes of Discipline now in use." The work of these Committees as thus outlined seems so great as to be almost impossible of accomplishment by busy people burdened with other duties and interested in other pursuits. But we should remember that it is not expected that these Committees will accomplish their great work in a day or in a year, but that they can take time to accomplish it, (as indeed they must), and that much of the best work they can do may be accomplished with the expenditure of comparatively little effort at the monthly meetings of the Association.

These standing Committees have not yet been chosen, nor is their work for the immediate future yet marked out in detail. It has been intimated by the present Executive Committee that suggestions as to this part of their work would be welcomed, and might be of aid to them. The suggestions given here are therefore only offered as such, and are the expression of the hope of what may be accomplished by the new Association.

To all of these standing Committees

questions relating to their several departments of research may be presented, and by them will be assigned to individual members for investigation and answer. It will at once be seen how interesting a meeting of our Association may be made by carefully prepared answers to questions relating to the history, principles, testimonies, literature or biography of the Society of Friends. As these questions occur to our minds let us write them down and present them for answer to the proper Committee. Subjects relating to the various departments of work may also be assigned by these Committees to individual members, and valuable papers which may be of great aid to the future historians or students among us may be the result.

As these Standing Committees pursue the work outlined for them in the Constitution, they will doubtless report from time to time the progress they are making. This should especially be done when anything of particular interest claims their attention and this will be frequently the case. If they could adopt some definite plan of work and report it to the Association, they might be greatly aided in their work by members of the Association desiring to follow their plan of research. For instance, if the Committee on History should decide to study the history of the Society by short epochs, and would report its plans, many members might adopt it and study with it; and so, also, with the Committees on Literature and Discipline.

Another feature of our work for which provision has not yet been made, but which would doubtless accomplish good results, and which can readily be arranged for, is the systematic reading of valuable works relating to the history and principles of the Society of Friends. If the Executive Committee would select some standard work, and suggest some plan of reading to our members, many of them, perhaps all, would be glad to adopt such a plan. Then