

EDINBURGH BRANCH OF THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS.

REPORT for period from 5th Feb.1957 to 30th Sept.1958.

The Edinburgh Branch of the Society of Recorder Players inaugurated on 5th Feb. 1957 has grown during the first eighteen months of its existence, from a small group of about sixteen members of the Society, to its present strength of about fifty members.

A few of the founder members had been members of the Society for some years, but the creation of an Edinburgh Branch was the idea of our present Musical Director, Miss May Whitby. Starting with a few colleagues and friends, she aroused an interest and enthusiasm for the instrument and the music of the period in history when the Recorder was "Everyman's" instrument. This interest was enlarged by some of these friends attending the Summer School at Roehampton, where they met and played with members of other branches.

This small group of friends having grown in number to sixteen, it was decided to start a Branch. Mr. Edgar Hunt was invited to inaugurate the Branch, and he gave it a good send-off by relating the history of the Society of Recorder Players since its foundation. He also conducted the players through some of the music they had been studying, finally playing himself to the group on each instrument of the consort of recorders in turn.

As a result of the publicity this wonderful send-off received, the membership jumped up considerably, and the Branch courageously decided to enter four teams in the Recorder Class of the Edinburgh Musical Festival. The intention had been to stimulate interest in this class, and the Branch was more than delighted when one of its teams was placed first.

Since its Birth, the branch has had three additional visits from Mr. Edgar Hunt, one of which took the form of a week-end training to which members from as far afield as Oban and Kirkcudbright turned up. For the first birthday of the Branch, Mr. Hunt sent copies of an old Scottish Dance which he had discovered and arranged for the five recorders. This has been adopted as the Signature tune of the Branch.

A beautiful Christmas Evening was held by members and friends when everyone played and sang Christmas Carols and other seasonal music. Two delightful summer evenings were also held when the Branch was honoured to have as its guests Miss Pat Cooper and her friends, who charmed us with their Chamber Music Playing. It is hoped that these special Christmas and Summer Evenings will become a tradition in the Edinburgh Branch of the Society of Recorder Players.

Perhaps/

Perhaps the most important happening during the period under review, was the acceptance of the invitation to become Honorary President of the Branch, by Dr. Hans Gal, who has become a very good friend of the Branch, sending some of his own compositions to the Branch and encouraging members in their playing.

Summer Schools in 1957 and 1958 were attended by members of the Edinburgh Branch, five in 1957 and eight in 1958. Great benefit was felt by those members and by the Branch as a whole.

This Report cannot finish without some words of appreciation of the great amount of work put in by the Honorary Musical Director of the Branch without whose untiring efforts there would be no Branch in Edinburgh and very many fewer Recorder Players.