

Edinburgh Branch of the Society of Recorder Players.

Secretary's Report for the Year 1959-60.

In October 1959 the Edinburgh Branch of the Society of Recorder Players entered upon its third full annual session since its official formation in February 1957. During the first two years of its life the Branch grew steadily in membership - rising 60 at the beginning of this year - and pioneered many new experiments. This third year was one of consolidation of its position in which perhaps no outstanding events such as the Freemasons' Hall concert of the preceding year, ^{but in place} but in which the Branch had established itself as part of the musical life of the City, witnessed, for example, by the invitation to two of the Branch members to appear as soloists with Dr. Gal's Orchestra in a performance of Bach's 4th Brandenburg Concerto and a concert given by a group of members to the Edinburgh Society of ^(Women section) Musicians. All this achievement is in a very large measure due to the enthusiasm of Miss Whitby to whom the Branch owes an enormous debt of gratitude for the time and energy which she has expended on its behalf.

Also symbolic of the Branch's consolidation was the adoption of a constitution - already referred to in the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, and the fact that at the annual Christmas and Summer Evenings - held on 14th December and 13th June respectively, the solo items were provided by members of the Branch in collaboration with string and wind players also drawn from the ranks of the Branch and their friends.

Perhaps the highlight of the year was the visit of Mr Carl Dolmetsch and Mr. Joseph Saxby on 20th February. In the afternoon a large number of members attended the training session at which/

which works by Holborne, Peuerl, Smeltzer and music for Shakespeare, which the Branch had been working on during the winter, were studied. This was an extremely profitable as well as enjoyable afternoon revealing as it did to the members that it actually is possible for a large number of recorders to play in tune, even though this perfection may not always subsequently have been achieved. In the evening, Mr Dolmetsch and Mr. Saxby gave a fascinating recital ranging from a 13th century dance tune played on rebec and tambour to modern works for recorder by Gordon Jacob, Arthur Milner and Rubbra, and including pieces for viols and harpsichord.

After the Easter break intensive work started on the entries which the Branch had decided to put in for the Edinburgh Competition Festival in May. These were a set of Dowland's Lachrymae for a Consort of 5 recorders, and 2 Bach Chorales in four parts, which it was decided to play three to a part. The Consort took ^{second} third place in the Open Class, the first place having been gained by a group of ^{winning 2} 3 members of the Branch who entered independently. Three other Branch members were also the sole entrants in the Solo Class. It is gratifying that the number of recorder entries in the Festival is increasing and that next year there will be a division into three age groups, one for ^{over 17} adults only. A difficulty hitherto has been in finding a suitable adjudicator and at the suggestion of Miss Whitby the Festival Committee has invited Mr. Edgar Hunt to act next year, and it is felt that this will result in much more helpful adjudications than have hitherto been customary.

The invitation by Mrs. Logan Home to Branch members to play at Edrom on Sunday, 26th June, provided a very enjoyable coda to the year's activities.