

THE ANGLO-CATALAN SOCIETY

This Society was formally constituted in 1954, having grown out of a small luncheon group of several senior British Hispanists who used to meet once a year in London.

The Anglo-Catalan Society is entirely cultural and educational in its aims and activities, and membership is open to all interested in Catalan history, language, literature, music and art. There is a yearly subscription of ten shillings. At present there are some 57 members: many of these are Catalans resident in the United Kingdom, and many, too, are university dons (the latter belong to the Universities of Belfast, ^{Birmingham,} Bristol, Cambridge, Durham, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Nottingham, Oxford, and Sheffield). The Society, however, is not restricted to academic members.

The Anglo-Catalan Society holds a yearly meeting in the Majorca Restaurant, Soho, a very pleasant occasion which is followed by the election of officers and by a business meeting.

The chief aim of the Society is the promotion of interest in things Catalan: a most successful attempt to carry this out was the visit in 1956 to several universities in this country of the eminent poet and scholar, Dr Carles Riba.

There is also a yearly Conference of the Society at which specialist papers are read and discussions held. So far successful conferences have taken place at New College, Oxford, ^{at} Christ's and Emmanuel Colleges, Cambridge, and ^{at} Sheffield University. The Cam-

bridge meeting coincided with the celebration there in 1956 of the Jocs Florals de la Llengua Catalana, and both events brought together many Catalanophiles both from abroad and from the United Kingdom (a distinguished visitor from Barcelona was the poetess Rosa Leveroni). The Anglo-Catalan Society offers its own prize to the Jocs for a creative or critical work on an Anglo-Catalan subject; so far this has been awarded for an outstanding translation of The Ballad of Reading Gaol (sent in from the United States).

The Society also maintains friendly contact with such similar organisations as the Institut d'Estudis Catalans, of Barcelona, the Amitiés Franco-Catalanes, of Paris, and a new group of Catalanophiles in the United States organised from California.

The officers of the Anglo-Catalan Society for 1957/58 are as follows: President, Prof. F. Pierce, University of Sheffield; Hon. Secretary, Dr J. Cremona, St Catharine's College, Cambridge; Hon. Treasurer, Mr G.W. Ribbans, University of Sheffield.