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TREASURER'S REPORT

A.G.M. 1ST MARCH 1985

The Statement of Accounts for 1984 is quite straightforward and little comment is needed. Although we had fewer members, with the result that income from subscriptions was less than in the previous year, we were much encouraged to receive donations of £96.47p. We are grateful to the Life Members who, having joined the Fellowship when subscriptions were low, have now made extra payments. We hope this is an indication of approval of what we are doing and we welcome their generous help.

Profits on most of our activities were satisfactory, especially on Gabriel Woolf's Readings, without which our finances would be much less healthy. Unfortunately, because of lack of support, the outing to the Francis Brett Young Country had to be cancelled and as we had already incurred expenses of £12.40p. a loss of this amount is shown on the statement. In 1983 we made profits of £52.85p. on outings: in 1984 a loss of £12.40p., a difference of £65.25p.

Postage rates continue to rise and though we are able to reduce some of our expenses, it is difficult to save on postage.

The launching of the Appeal for the George Eliot Statue to be erected in Nuneaton has occupied a considerable amount of our time. We have already received more than £5,000 and we are grateful to all the members who have given generously to this ambitious undertaking. When it was first suggested I often lay awake at night wondering what would

happen if we failed and had to admit that it was an impossible task for us. I have no such fears now. I am confident that, with the help of members who still have donations to send, we shall reach our target.

Once again, I should like to thank two of our Vice Presidents for the considerable help they give us: Gabriel Woolf, for the substantial addition to our Income as a result of his annual programme of Readings – and to Dr. Ezell who, in addition to collecting subscriptions for us, continues to copy and distribute the Newsletters to our American and Canadian members at his expense. We appreciate the help we are getting from Gabriel Woolf and Dr. Ezell and thank them for it.

The Auditor, Colin Emery, braved the recent Arctic conditions so that the books could be checked and the accounts approved in time for this meeting and I am grateful for his co-operation.

After eight years as Treasurer I am still amazed at the amount of work that our Secretary manages to do and I should like, on your behalf, to thank Kathleen for all that she does for the Fellowship.

A. READER

Hon. Treasurer

27th February 1985