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EDITORIAL

THE vivid accounts of the Biarritz-Pamplona Festival which appear in later pages of this *Journal* will recall pleasurable memories to those who were there and will indicate to other less fortunate members what a wealth of beauty and interest was revealed by the occasion. The Council is deeply indebted to its generous hosts, the Syndicat d'Initiatives and Town of Biarritz and the Municipality of Pamplona, who made such excellent provision for the Festival and Conference and who spared themselves no effort in the entertainment of their guests.

With each Festival and Conference the Council extends its sphere of interest and gains new adherents. At the Biarritz-Pamplona Festival the participation of a group of dancers, singers and musicians from Japan, who had travelled to Europe on purpose to take part in the Festival, was particularly appreciated, as was also the large contingent of members from the United States. In all, twenty-four countries were represented.

1953 has been an active year for the Council, not only on account of the organisation of the Festival and Conference. In addition to the publication of its annual *Journal*, it has compiled and published an *International Catalogue of Recorded Folk Music* (see page 56) and it has been engaged in the preparation of a collection of Folk Songs of Europe which it hopes to publish during 1954.

The Radio Committee, which was set up after the 1952 Conference in London, has initiated various projects, including the scheme for IFMC broadcasts, to which reference is made on page 57. One cannot exaggerate the importance to folk music of the interest which is being taken by broadcasting organisations, and the close connection which the Council is establishing with these organisations in many parts of the world will be of inestimable benefit to its work. On purely economic grounds we owe them a debt of gratitude for had it not been for the generosity of a number of radio organisations the Council would have been obliged to close down or at least to curtail its activities.

This leads us to the consideration of the Council's present financial position. Happily we are solvent and even have a small balance in hand, but this should not lead us into a false sense of security. As the work grows, so do our commitments and it becomes imperative to employ a paid organising secretary. The number of subscribers is at present under 500. This for an organisation which has contacts in nearly every country in the world is obviously inadequate. Can we not set ourselves the target of multiplying this figure by four during the next two years? And if during 1954 each member of the Council could bring in one new member a good start will have been made.

We would appeal to all members seriously to consider in what way they can best enlarge the membership of the Council. A brochure describing the Council's aims and objects has recently been published and is available for distribution on request.