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EDITORIAL

THE Council has been fortunate in the national setting of its conferences, which each year has given a distinctive character to the proceedings. At the 1951 conference, held at Opatija from September 8th to 14th, we had the stimulus of exchanging views with and learning from our Yugoslav colleagues who have had the inestimable advantage of studying their folk music tradition whilst it is still in full flower; and we were privileged to see and hear for ourselves the beauty and variety of Yugoslav folk art in the wonderful Festival which had been especially arranged for the members of the Conference. This contact with the living material gave point and added significance to the theoretic discussions, for it showed that we were concerned with a form of artistic expression that is not merely an adornment but a condition of life. Indeed, there were moments during the Festival performances when we could recognise the magic of dance and song and believe in their power to drive away evil spirits, to induce fertility and to promote healing.

We owe an immeasurable debt of gratitude to the Yugoslav Government, to the Federation of Societies for Education and Culture of Yugoslavia, and to all who contributed to the enriching experiences of the Festival and Conference.

The programme adopted by the General Assembly at its meeting on September 11th, which is outlined in the last issue of the *Bulletin* (No. 5), gives scope for useful achievements. Two major projects are the preparation of an international catalogue of folk music records and of an international collection of folk songs. The next conference, which will be held in London from July 14th to 19th, will break fresh ground in its intention to study the role of folk music in education and recreation with special emphasis on broadcasting.

Another important decision taken by the General Assembly was to make provision for the affiliation of National Committees, and we hope that the formation of these committees will enable the Council to decentralise its activities and thus lead to a more general sharing of responsibility in the carrying out of its objectives.
