

# Postcards may help spotlight early days.

Members of the Keighley Esperanto Society hope to glean new information about activities of two of the society's pioneers — Mr. and Mrs. John Ellis — from a collection of picture postcards sent to Mr. Ellis from many parts of the world during the early years of the century.

Together with the late Mr. Joseph Rhodes, Mr. Ellis helped to found the Keighley Society — the first in Britain — in 1902.

It was following a reference in the Keighley News recently to a special meeting to be held at the House of Commons this week, that the cards have been passed on to the Keighley Society. The meeting was looked on as a further step towards the recognition of Esperanto, the international language.

The collection has been loaned by Mr. John Delves, of Lingfield Lane, Cross Roads, the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Ellis.

Keighley Esperantist Mr. James Gow says that from the beautifully preserved cards dating from 1902 to 1908 the

Society hopes to obtain additional information about the activities of these two early pioneers.

He says that one particular feature in many of the cards is the repeated reference to chess problems. "Evidently Mr. Ellis, who practised as a solicitor from offices in Crompton Buildings, Bow Street, was above average as a chess player" says Mr Gow.

"He participated in international contests against opponents in Russia, France, Germany, Spain and other countries, using the international language of Esperanto in the correspondence through which the majority of the games were contested."

Mr. Ellis was the first secretary of the Keighley Society and was prominent in the movement for several years, though he appears to have severed his connections about 1908.

The Keighley Society was disbanded early in 1940 but was reformed in November, 1952, on the 50th anniversary of the founding of the original society.