

Regional Conference

THE Annual Conference of the Society was held in October last, at Dunblane, in Scottish Churches' House. The day opened with Holy Communion in the Cathedral, celebrated by the President, Dr John A. Lamb.

Thereafter in the House members and their friends heard an address by the Warden, the Rev. Ian M. Fraser, B.D., Ph.D., on "The People's Part in Worship." He saw the layman's need as discernment, and pleaded for more patient ministerial instruction thus making for edification, and also for more opportunities for the layman to participate in corporate worship, e.g. in singing (more variety—cannot congregations be introduced to the Gelineau psalms?); in prayer (more responses and "known" prayers); in reading (antiphonally or by the whole congregation); and in preaching (not solely a ministerial responsibility—the Word can have free course in the studying group). Dr Fraser would maintain that the people of God are a charismatic community, and their various gifts of prayer, interpretation, song and speech are only seen as they are brought into play; participation that opens people's minds to the reality of God.

After lunch the members were conducted round the House by the Warden, and the discussion on the paper, which followed, showed the usefulness of these gatherings, and the evident sense of fellowship engendered among the members.

At the close, the Very Reverend Principal John H. S. Burleigh expressed the thanks of the Conference to Dr Fraser for his informative address. Some 33 members and their friends attended.

We take this opportunity of intimating that the next One Day Conference will be held on Monday, 7th October, at Govan Old Parish Church, Glasgow. The subject will be "The Revised Order for the Administration of Holy Baptism." The intention is to give some consideration to the new Order published this year by the Committee on Public Worship and Aids to Devotion. This Order contains the revisions and other changes deemed necessary as a result of the findings of the Commission on Baptism. We are fortunate in securing as the speaker, the Rev. John Heron.

B.D., S.T.M., Kirkintilloch, a member of this society, who served as Secretary of the Commission throughout its session, and was also a member of the Sub-Committee which revised the Order.

This should prove a topical subject, and a useful one for discussion, and we trust that the Conference will be well supported. Members are invited to bring their friends with them.

Notice of the Conference will be sent to all members in Glasgow. Others outwith that area who wish to attend should notify the Secretary, who will be glad to supply details of the programme.