

THE RECORD

THE CHURCH SERVICE SOCIETY

EDITORIAL NOTE

This issue of the Record is concerned mainly with the internal arrangements of churches and their impact on worship. The Editor is grateful to Mr Brown, Dr Todd and Dr Galbraith for their articles and to Dr Galbraith and Mr McAlister for their reviews. He also records his thanks to Miss Susan Wilson for her help in typing and presentation.

H.R.S.



QUEEN'S CROSS PARISH CHURCH, ABERDEEN

Sanctuary Alterations

Robert F. Brown

Church buildings are both practical and theological. They are designed to be functional, but the way they are built also tells us what the people who designed them and use them believe. A mediaeval cathedral, with its great roof space and high altar away in the distance, stresses the transcendence, the holiness, the majesty, the mystery of God: God is the Other before whom we bow down in awe and wonder. A hall church of the kind built by the Church of Scotland in the 1950s in church extension parishes, with the stage at one end and the chancel at the other, is different entirely. The chairs which face the chancel on Sunday can be turned round or cleared away after the service so that the space used for worship can also be used for ordinary, secular activities during the week. The building points not so much to the transcendence but to