
Notes and Comments

MEMBERS will find enclosed in this issue a copy of the leaflet outlining briefly the history and aims of the Society. There must be very few ministers in the Church today who do not adhere to the Society's aim of order, reverence, beauty and reality in worship; and few elders, organists and laymen whose interest could not be enlisted if they were made aware of our existence.

We therefore ask you to take this opportunity to commend the work of the Society by passing on this leaflet to a friend. To ministers we suggest that the leaflet might be passed around at meetings of fraternal associations, where such exist. We are sure this would yield immediate results.

In these days of rising costs an increased membership, rather than an increased subscription, is the easier and more satisfactory way of keeping our finances stable, and we do appeal to members to endeavour to extend the influence of the Society throughout the Church in every way possible.

Additional supplies of the leaflet may be obtained, free of charge, from the Hon. Secretary, the Rev. W. J. Ross, Bonnybridge, Stirlingshire.

Requests are frequently received, particularly from overseas, for back numbers of the *Annual*. Unfortunately, we can meet these orders only in part, as the number of issues in stock is now reduced to eight. Members who have old *Annuals* which they are willing to gift to the Society, or to sell, should communicate with the Secretary. It should be noted that one Canadian minister is willing to buy these at the original purchase price!

In the report of the Committee on Public Worship and Aids to Devotion to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland reference is made, from time to time, to the encouraging circulation of the *Book of Common Order of the Church of Scotland* (Geoffrey Cumberlege, Oxford University Press). Members will be interested and gratified to learn that, from the date of its publication in 1940 until 31st December, 1957, 23, 969 copies of the book have been sold in the United Kingdom and overseas.

Reports

ANNUAL MEETING. There was an attendance of about seventy at the Annual Meeting in the Martin Hall, New College, Edinburgh, on 24th May, 1957.

The Rev. Principal J. H. Burleigh, B.Litt., D.D., presided, and made reference to the loss sustained by the death of Rev. John Howat, B.D., a member of the Council.

The Secretary's report noted a slight increase in membership and a circulation of 900 *Annuals* at home and abroad. It also referred to the twenty-first Anniversary of the foundation of the Society in New Zealand; the rapid growth in membership of a Society recently formed at Princeton; and to contacts made with two Societies in England having similar objects, viz., the Society of St. Ambrose (interdenominational), and the Methodist Sacramental Fellowship. Literature is now exchanged with both societies. These developments were noted and warmly welcomed.

The Treasurer reported an increased credit balance, due to payments of subscriptions by many members *before* the Annual Meeting. Careful attention to this each year would greatly ease the financial position.

The President then introduced Gordon Donaldson, Esq., M.A., Ph.D., D.Litt., Reader in Scottish History and Paleography at the University of Edinburgh, who addressed the Society on "Scottish Worship: the Heritage of the Past and the Needs of the Present".

ONE-DAY CONFERENCE: About twenty-five members and friends attended a Conference in Paisley Abbey, on 30th September, 1957.

Principal J. H. Burleigh presided, and, after the celebration of Holy Communion, the Rev. Alastair K. Robertson, B.D., Ph.D., Langton and Polwarth, read an informative and critical paper on "The Place of Dr Robert Lee in the Developments in the Public Worship of the Church of Scotland, 1840-1940".

After lunch the Minister, the Rev. W. H. Rogan, B.D., conducted the guests on a tour of the ancient and historic Abbey Church. The afternoon discussion afforded a useful interchange of views on matters relevant to the subject.