

In Memoriam

THE REV. THOMAS MAJORIBANKS, D.D.

The Rev. Thomas Marjoribanks, D.D., formerly Secretary and later President of the Church Service Society, died at his home, at St Andrews, on Thursday, January 30th, 1947, at the age of 75.

He was the son of the Rev. George Marjoribanks, D.D., who had succeeded his father as Minister of Stenton parish in 1868. Dr Marjoribanks (who received the degree of D.D. from the University of Edinburgh in 1932) was born in 1871 and was educated at Stenton School, Collegiate School and the University of Edinburgh, graduating M.A. in 1891, and B.D. three years later. After assistantships at the West Parish, Aberdeen, and St Cuthbert's, Edinburgh, he was ordained at Houndwood, Berwickshire, in 1898. From there he was translated to Callander and, in 1910, to Colinton, where he remained for over twenty years. Finding the burdens of the parish increasingly heavy, he moved to the more secluded parish of Morham, in East Lothian, where he remained until his retirement to St Andrews in 1941.

He became a member of the Church Service Society soon after his ordination and was appointed Secretary in 1916, an office which he held until 1927. He was for many years a member of the Editorial Committee, a body which in earlier days was one of considerable importance. Much of the work which is now done by the General Assembly's Committee on Public Worship and Aids to Devotion, was then done by the Church Service Society, and this entailed considerable labour in which Dr Marjoribanks took his full share. After the sudden death of Rev. D. Bruce Nicol, M.C., B.D., Dr Marjoribanks edited the *Annual* for several years. He was called to the President's chair in 1932 choosing as the subject of his presidential address "The Minister in the Service", an address which will long be remembered by those who heard it. His own standard of ministerial work was high and it was his constant endeavour to induce others to take a similar view of their sacred duties. In all the deliberations of the Society and of its Council he

took a prominent part, and his colleagues were always ready to be guided by his shrewd and kindly advice.

He was also for many years a member of the General Assembly's Committee on Public Worship and Aids to Devotion. (His father had held the office of Convener of the Committee on Psalmody and Hymns in the pre-Union Church of Scotland). In all the work of that committee he took a leading part. He was selected as one of the representatives of the Church of Scotland on the committee for the revision of the Church Hymnary, and continued a member until the work was completed.

He took a leading part in the preparation of several of the Church's manuals, notably the *Book of Common Order* and *Prayers for the Christian Year*. A good example of his work will be found in the service for Trinity Sunday in the latter book, it being almost entirely from his pen. He was likewise responsible for the last book of *Family Prayers* issued by the Committee, as well as for a booklet dealing with the Christian Year, publications whose value is much greater than their size suggests. He was joint compiler with Dr Wilson Baird, of Aberdeen, of *A Year's Praise*, a work which is being increasingly used throughout the Church.

Dr Marjoribanks was also the author of several theological works, such as *In the Likeness of Men*, dealing with the earthly life of our Lord, which was published when he was minister at Callander; followed in a few years by a companion volume entitled *The Fulness of the Godhead*. In the "Short Course" series there appeared (1913) his volume *The Sevenfold "I AM"*, probably one of the best things he ever wrote. The writer of this note when serving as a chaplain with the Army during the Great War had perforce to travel "light", but one of the books he managed to keep by his side was this one, by the Minister of Colinton.

Dr Marjoribanks was not only a hard working parish minister, but was also interested in the wider work of the Church. For many years he edited *In Far Fields*, the Church's missionary magazine. In all things he stood for reverence in the Sanctuary, and in his passing we have been deprived of one who did much to further the objects for which our Society stands. He was indeed a workman who needed not to be ashamed and, while we mourn his death, we rejoice that he has entered into his reward; using the prayer which he himself composed: "We thank Thee for all who have faithfully served Thee in their day and genera-

tion, into the fruit of whose labours we are entered. . . .
 And, we beseech Thee, grant . . . that we may
 imitate their good example, faithfully serving Thee all our
 lives and being ready at all times to bear witness for Thee,
 even unto death ; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen ”.

W. M.

THE REV. NINIAN HILL, D.D.

By the death of Dr Ninian Hill the Church has lost a wise counsellor and a trustworthy leader.

Born in Greenock in 1861—a fellow-citizen of John and Edward Caird—Ninian Hill was educated at Hawtrey’s School, Slough, Buckinghamshire, and at the Universities of St Andrews, Geneva, and Edinburgh. His early intention to enter the Holy Ministry had to be set aside owing to family reasons, and for several years he was engaged in business at Greenock.

“ Not slothful in business, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord ”, he was made an elder of the Church in 1914. On the day following the entry of General Allenby into Jerusalem in December, 1917, Mr Hill moved in the Presbytery of Edinburgh that the General Assembly be overtured to commemorate the event by promoting a scheme for the erection of a Scottish Church and Hospice in the Holy City. The overture was adopted and arrangements were made, in conjunction with the United Free Church, for carrying out the scheme. The foundation stone was laid by Field Marshal Viscount Allenby, on 7th May, 1927.

Circumstances having permitted of the resumption of his academic studies, Mr Hill was licensed by the Presbytery of Edinburgh in 1922, and became Assistant at Greenside, and later at St Cuthbert’s, Edinburgh. As Convener of the Editorial Committee of the Church Service Society he supervised the production of the book of *Services for Holy Week and Easter*, compiled by Dr Norman Maclean, of which the latter wrote: “ Mr Hill was its originator ; without him it would not have been produced ”.

In 1923 Mr Hill was ordained for work in Jerusalem, and he carried on services there for five years. After returning to Edinburgh, where he took up residence in 1928, the University of Edinburgh conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Divinity, in recognition of his services to Church and State.

The breadth and variety of Dr Hill's interests is indicated by the titles of his published works: *The Story of the Old West Kirk of Greenock* (1898 and 1911); *Child and State in Scotland* (1909); *Poland and the Polish Question* (1915); *The Story of the Scottish Church from the Earliest Times* (1919); *A First Communion Manual* (1945).

He had an instinctive appreciation of all things good and beautiful and true. Church Art and Architecture, Liturgics, Church Music, all found in him an instructed and staunch supporter, and he encouraged the younger clergy to make a serious study of such subjects, which are so often overlooked in the ordinary curriculum. It ought to be known to every member of the Church Service Society that the idea of the *Annual* came from him, and that he supervised the production of its early issues.

We can best honour his memory by carrying on the work to which he was so devoted, of making the worship and services of the Church more seemly, and more worthy of their high purpose. Dr Hill, it might truly be said, was endowed with "largeness of heart". His contribution to the life of his own generation might be summed up in the words of Philo: "Households, cities, countries and nations have enjoyed great happiness, when a single individual has taken heed of the Good and the Beautiful Such men not only liberate themselves; they fill those whom they meet with a free mind".

For the "free mind" that was in Dr Hill we have reason to be profoundly grateful. Let us seek to be upheld by the same free spirit; then our labours will not be in vain. "He that soweth bountifully, shall reap also bountifully".

W. N. B.