

Annual Meeting of the Society

25th May, 1956

THE Annual Meeting of the Society was held in the Martin Hall, New College, Edinburgh. The Rev. Wm. D. Maxwell, Ph.D., D.D., Hon. President, was in the Chair in the absence of the President, the Rev. David A. Hodges, B.D., who had been incapacitated by an accident.

Dr Maxwell welcomed visitors from overseas, including the Rev. Prof. John Barkley, Presbyterian College, Belfast, and the Rev. George Dallard, New Zealand, who conveyed the greetings of their respective Societies.

The reports of the Secretary and the Treasurer were submitted and approved. These showed a satisfactory credit balance, that with home membership at the same level about 850 copies of the Annual had been circulated, including 225 sent to New Zealand, announced the formation of a new daughter Society at Princeton University, U.S.A., with 33 members, and reported the recent discovery of the Seal of the Society.

The resignation of Mr F. P. Milligan, W.S., Treasurer, in the course of the year, was noted, and the Chairman expressed the thanks of the Society to him for his long and faithful service for almost 40 years. The appointment of Mr A. R. Mowat as Treasurer was ratified.

A new Constitution submitted by the Council was unanimously approved.

Thereafter Dr Maxwell gave an address on "Aspects of Worship" which he had prepared at short notice, and was warmly thanked on the call of the Rev. R. A. Howieson, who also congratulated him on his appointment to the Chair of Divinity at Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa.

The Rev. Professor J. H. S. Burleigh, B.Litt., D.D., was installed as President by Dr Maxwell, who conveyed to him the congratulations of the Society on his nomination as Principal of New College. The Rev. Foster Franklin, D.D., Corstorphine, was elected as Vice-President, and the Secretary, Treasurer, and Council were re-elected with the addition of the Rev. T. H. Keir, M.A., Melrose, and the Rev. H.C. Whitley, Ph.D., St. Giles' Cathedral.

One Day Conference, Edinburgh

THERE was an attendance of some forty members and their friends at a Conference of the Society held within the Old Parish Church, Corstorphine, Edinburgh, on Monday, 29th October, 1956.

Following upon the celebration of Holy Communion, the Conference, under the chairmanship of the Minister of the Church and Vice-President of the Society, the Rev. Dr Foster Franklin, heard first a fresh appraisal of *The Book of Common Order*, 1940, from an Anglican standpoint. The lecturer was the Rev. C. G. W. Nicholls, M.A., Chaplain to Anglican students within the University of Edinburgh. From his considerable liturgical knowledge he was able to pin-point some of the defects of the service book, and also to underline its merits. His frank, stimulating address was warmly appreciated, and provoked a helpful and interesting discussion.

The second paper, on the *Scottish Book of Common Prayer*, 1929, was given by one of our own members, the Rev. Dr. John F. Marshall, Aberdalgie and Dupplin. As a Presbyterian he found in this prayer book, highly esteemed by liturgical scholars, much to welcome and to commend to members of the Society for closer study; and also some points of practical criticism as a parish minister.

The Conference afforded opportunity for a profitable exchange of informed opinion, and served again to emphasize the value of such gatherings in furtherance of the aim of the Society to encourage liturgical study.

Members enjoyed an excellent lunch served in the church hall by some ladies of the congregation. The President, the Rev. Principal J. H. S. Burleigh, D.D., who was unable, under pressure of other engagements, to be present in the morning, presided at the afternoon session.

The Seal and the Motto



Juxta laudabilem Ecclesiae Scotiae Reformatae formam et ritum

THE report at the last Annual Meeting of the recent discovery of the Seal of the Society at the works of an Edinburgh printer, was received with considerable interest. It may thus be of some interest to record the known facts about the Seal.

It first appears in 1874, opposite the title page of the Third Edition of *Euchologion*. Unfortunately the minutes of the Society contain no reference to the origin of the Seal or its composition, but its true Presbyterian ancestry will readily be recognized in the burning bush emblem, superimposed on a St. Andrew's Cross on a shield azure, with the motto *nec tamen consumebatur* encircling. The cross crosslet which appears at the base completes the circlet.

At the Annual Meeting of 1874 held in the High Church, St. Giles', Dr G. W. Sprott, North Berwick, who presided, referring to the new edition of *Euchologion*, expressed his satisfaction with the new form of the burning bush emblem on the Seal. "For the last thirty years the rays which of old used to surround the bush have been generally changed into smoke, as if the wood were actually on fire and in the process of being consumed. We have had great pleasure in banishing the smoke and restoring the rays: I hope this is an omen for good to the Church, while I think we may claim it is in some sort an illustration of the work in which our Society is engaged".

The Seal is found on the remaining editions of *Euchologion*, on some of the nineteenth century publications including the "Scottish Liturgies" series and John Kerr's "Renascence of Worship", and also on the front page of the Annual Reports from 1908 to 1928. Its whereabouts seem to have been unknown since the latter date.

The motto, *Juxta laudabilem . . .*, made its first appearance on the title page of the First (1867) Edition of *Euchologion*, and after 1874, is always conjoined with the Seal wherever it is used. It is attributed to Edmund Grindal, Archbishop of Canterbury who, on 6th April, 1582, through William Aubrey his vicar-general, issued a Licence to John Morrison to celebrate Divine Offices and minister the Sacraments throughout the province of Canterbury. Morrison, who had been parish minister at Bara in East Lothian, was ordained by "the General Synod or Congregation of Lothian"; and the Licence bears that as he was "admitted and ordained to Sacred Orders and the Holy Ministry by the imposition of hands, according to the laudable form and rite of the Church of Scotland"⁽¹⁾, the Archbishop approves and ratifies the form of his ordination done in the manner aforesaid.

It is interesting to speculate as to why our forefathers chose the words of an Anglican Archbishop for their motto: no doubt his reference to the Order of the Church of Scotland as "laudabilem" would be greatly valued; and certainly as an expression of the aim of this Society since its foundation 92 years ago, it could hardly be bettered.

⁽¹⁾ The reference, J. Strype, *Edmund Grindal* Bk II App. No. xvii has been verified by Professor W. D. Maxwell.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE SOCIETY

THE name of the Society shall be "The Church Service Society of the Church of Scotland".

The object of the Society shall be to study the liturgies—ancient and modern—of the Christian Church, and the principles of public worship, to encourage order, reverence, beauty, and reality in worship.

Membership of the Society shall be open to all members of the Church of Scotland. Others may be admitted as Associate Members, who shall not have voting rights or be eligible for election to office.

Members and Associate Members shall pay an Annual Subscription which shall be fixed at an Annual General Meeting.

The affairs of the Society shall be conducted by a Council, consisting of a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and not more than twenty other members. They shall hold office for two years and shall be eligible for re-election. Former Presidents shall be designated Honorary President, and shall be *ex officio* members of the Council.

The Annual Meeting of the Society shall be held in Edinburgh at the time of the General Assembly. At this meeting the Treasurer shall present a financial report, officials and Council shall be elected, and any other competent business transacted.

One member in each Presbytery shall be appointed as a Correspondent, to further the interests of the Society, to enrol new members, and to collect the annual subscription.

No change in the Constitution shall be adopted unless one month's notice has been given of the proposed alteration. Any change must be approved by two-thirds of the members present at an Annual General Meeting.