

## EDITORIAL

This year marks the sixteenth centenary of the formulation of the Nicene Creed in 381. It is an opportunity to reflect upon the place of the Nicene Creed in worship in general, and in our own churches in particular.

The Church Service Society in Scotland has marked the anniversary by holding a joint conference with the Scottish Church Society, and reference to the discussion at this conference will be made in the next issue of the journal.

Although it would not be true to say that the Nicene Creed is used widely in the worship of the Church of Scotland, it has won official recognition. It has been included in the communion services in the *Book of Common Order* of 1940 and of 1979, and it is included among the items of praise for communion in the Third Edition of the *Church Hymnary*. The Church Service Society can claim to have played a part in this development since the Nicene Creed was printed in the Order for Holy Communion in its own service book, *Euchologion*.

\* \* \*

There have been two major publications by the General Assembly's Committee on Public Worship and Aids to Devotion in recent months. *Prayers for Sunday Services*, the companion volume to the *Book of Common Order (1979)* is reviewed in this issue by Dr John Huxtable from the perspective of our sister church south of the border, the United Reformed Church. In fairness to the Committee it should perhaps be pointed out, however, that it is anticipated that the earlier publication, *Prayers for the Christian Year (1935 and 1952)* will be reprinted to provide a comprehensive treatment of this area.

The other publication is *New Ways to Worship* which will be reviewed in a future issue. Unlike other publications by the Committee, *New Ways* does not set out to provide a set standard, but to stimulate change. It was produced by a small group representative of a wide spectrum of opinion in the Kirk. Changes in worship are advocated, but not simply for the sake of change. Changes are suggested so that worship might be more closely related to the changing patterns of society and needs of people.

The introduction is longer than is usual for such books since the case for change is made and suggestions are offered before

particular examples of services are given. Among these introductory chapters is one concerned with the "Permanent Factors" of worship. It is surely right that if worship continues to be based upon the mediation of Christ by the Holy Spirit in Word and Sacrament, then the actual forms and techniques which are used can and should be changed as times and people change. In worship, as in other areas of the life of the Church, the reformed principle is *semper reformanda*.

D. M.

\* \* \*

We regret to announce the death of Miss V. M. Wallace Williamson of Edinburgh who had served as a member of the Council of the Society since 1967. Miss Wallace Williamson was the daughter of the late Very Rev. Dr Andrew Wallace Williamson, minister of St Giles', who was a prominent member of the Society earlier this century.