

order. Because of this influence certain modifications have been made. Other brethren have also been interested in our work including Lutherans, Episcopalians, and Roman Catholics.

We feel in many ways that our society is a true chip of the old block.

ERNEST GORDON

The Church Service Society of New Zealand

At its Annual Meeting last November, the Church Service Society of the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand gave most cordial approval to the sending of a greeting on the occasion of the Centenary of the Church Service Society of the Church of Scotland. We would hope that members of the Society in Scotland may become aware of the deep gratitude which is felt by so many here for the vision, labours and progress of the past century, and of our prayer that God's blessing may be continued upon your work.

Our members are glad of the opportunity to acknowledge that they owe a great debt to the Society in Scotland, which has been incurred in many ways. We have been led to a deeper appreciation of the riches of our own heritage. The scholarly works of many distinguished members have been guides to us as students, and as ministers with parish responsibilities. The *Annual*, which from the beginning of our Society has been supplied to all our members, has been eagerly awaited each year; and here we would express our thanks to its contributors. One of the effects of our relationship has been that we have been assisted to a deeper appreciation of the worship of other communions, an important factor in the ecumenical setting in New Zealand.

The New Zealand Society was formed on 23rd November 1936, and the minute book opens: "A small but representative gathering of members of the General Assembly, meeting at that time at Christchurch, gathered at 6.30 p.m., in response to a notice inviting Ministers and Elders interested in Public Worship to meet for the purpose of discussing the advisability of forming a Society for the study of principles of Worship, Music and Architecture in connection with our Church." The Very Reverend Principal John Dickie, D.D. was elected President, the Reverend A. B. Kilroy Chairman of the Committee, and the Reverend D. M. Hercus, Secretary. From the Church Service Society of the Church of Scotland

a greeting was received, and also an offer to supply sufficient copies of the *Annual* for all our members. The membership has grown from 22 to some 240 members. In October 1941 *The Bulletin* was first issued, the subsequent numbers including addresses, articles and book reviews, proving a valuable local means of expression.

The influence of our New Zealand Society has been quietly but steadily felt. The Society has an accepted place in the life of the Church, as may be seen from the fact that nearly half the ministers are members. Its objects have not been extremist and its influence has been exercised by bringing about a gradual deepening of the concern for worthy worship. This has resulted in a transformation of church worship which is quite considerable: and along with more edifying outward form has gone deeper theological content. There is a significant change in attitude which shows itself in a readier evaluation of both new and old. There has been a noticeable improvement in the standard of public prayer; in the conduct of occasional services e.g. weddings and funerals; in the administration of Baptism and in the celebration of the Lord's Supper: and the main seasons of the Christian Year are more widely observed. The concern of the Society for worthy architecture has proved beneficial, greatly through the influence of the Reverend D. M. Hercus. This concern has been of strategic value in the last twenty years, because of the needs arising from the condition of old buildings and the development of new areas of population. A secondary influence of the Society has been the interest in Church Music which has grown in recent years. Though the great advance made in the *Revised Church Hymnary* has been recognized and appreciated, the news of a further revision has been welcomed.

As the Society in Scotland enters its second century, we here will continue to pray that its work may promote that worship of God which is indeed "in spirit and in truth".

J. E. STEWART

The Church Service Society of Victoria

The members of the Church Service Society of Victoria, Australia, convey to the Church Service Society, Scotland, cordial greetings, and their congratulations on the occasion of the Centenary celebrations of 1965. Although we are many thousands of miles from you, we rejoice with you at this historic occasion. We give thanks to God for the rich heritage