

INTRODUCING *LITURGICAL STUDIES*

The *Annual* of the Church Service Society first appeared in 1928 under the Editorship of Dr. Ninian Hill and has made its regular appearance since then apart from a brief spell during World War II.

The Council of the Society felt that the time had come to secure more efficient publishing arrangements and distribution and decisions to bring this about were taken by the Council and ratified at the Annual Meeting of the Society in May 1970. This decision involved two changes.

- (1) The Scottish Academic Press as publishers will be responsible for the production, promotion and distribution of the journal. Editorial content will be controlled, as formerly, by the Editor, who is appointed by the Council.
- (2) As 'Annual' is no longer appropriate to a periodical which the Press recommend should be issued every six months in May and November, a new title had to be devised. Periodical Titles are not easy to come by and, after much discussion and thought, the Executive have agreed with the Press on the title *Liturgical Studies* which is felt to be both sufficiently detailed to indicate the special field involved and also sufficiently broad to allow for a wide range of contributions. It is hoped that this new title will commend itself to the members of the Society and to all others interested.

The Editorial policy remains in keeping with the original aims of the Society founded in 1865 which are, firstly, to further the study of liturgies, ancient and modern, and the collection from all sources of liturgical material, and, secondly, the compilation of suitable forms of service for the use of ministers in their conduct of public worship.

To some extent the second aim has now been taken over by the Church of Scotland General Assembly's Committee on Public Worship and Aids to Devotion, which has many members of the Society in its composition, but *Liturgical Studies* will give opportunity for the discussion of experiments and for the preparation of material for study and use before it is ripe for official authorization.

Historical studies of liturgies, suitably annotated when possible, will always be welcome as contributions, and discussions of matters of good order in church architecture and furnishing are also acceptable. It is hoped to continue the descriptions of famous or

interesting places of worship which have been a notable feature of the *Annual* in former years. With more frequent publication the Editor is willing to consider contributions in the form of letters or discussions dealing with matters relating to good order in the church or in its services or, alternatively, discussions of matters relating to the history of liturgies.

The Church Service Society is primarily a Church of Scotland Society whose membership is open to all ministerial and lay members of the Church at the current rates of Annual Subscription which include copies of *Liturgical Studies*. Associates also receive the journal in return for the same annual subscription, and are entitled to all other privileges of membership except appointment to office and the right to vote at meetings. Theological students may receive the journal at a reduced rate during the period of their course.

The Journal has always been ecumenical in outlook and has welcomed contributions from outside the membership of the Society as much as from within it and this policy will be continued.

Attention is drawn in particular to the contributions in the current number by Professor von Allmen (Reformed), Fr. John Symon (Roman Catholic), by Mr. Rogerson, a Glasgow architect, and by Mr. Campbell, an Edinburgh organist.

Items planned for future numbers include an address by Professor Gordon Donaldson of the Chair of Scottish History and Palaeography in the University of Edinburgh on 'Worship in Scotland in 1620'; a study of the new Roman Catholic Baptismal Service by Fr. Vincent Ryan, O.S.B., from Ireland; a study of Reformed Worship in Hungary by Professor Barkley of Belfast; the criteria of Church membership in Scotland; an examination of Law in relation to Public Worship; a study of the forthcoming new Hymnary; a study of the 'Pilkington' group of churches, etc.

The Editor will appreciate the co-operation of members and readers in making their own contributions and in introducing *Liturgical Studies* to new readers. They may also like to introduce new contributors who have something to say which is relevant to *Liturgical Studies* in the times in which we live.

IAN A. MOIR

Editor

NOTE: All contributions should be sent to the Editor at the address on inside front cover.