

The Reverend
WILLIAM DELBERT MAXWELL
Ph.D., D.Litt., D.D.

Hon. President of The Church Service Society

Born Ontario 1901. Died South Africa 1971

I have possibly three qualifications for writing about W. D. Maxwell – he and I were close friends for forty years, we served together as chaplains in the Second World War, and were in regular correspondence with each other since he went to South Africa, where he taught, first Divinity at Rhodes, and latterly Church History at Fort Hare.

That he occupied these university chairs with marked success and at the same time retained his place as a leading figure in the field of liturgical studies, demonstrates the range and depth of his scholarship. There was indeed early evidence in Maxwell's life of outstanding academic ability. Born in a manse of the Presbyterian Church in Canada he was a distinguished graduate in Arts and in Divinity of the University of Toronto, and was himself ordained in Canada at the unusual age of twenty-three.

After his first ministry at Sheeburne (Ont.) he came to Scotland via a short assistantship at St. Stephen's, Edinburgh and an Edinburgh Ph.D. Thereafter he moved to London. In the Presbyterian Church of England he held two charges, at Emperor's Gate in London and at Walton-on-Thames, before coming to Hillhead in Glasgow, and eventually completing his career in the ministry of the Church of Scotland at Whitekirk in East Lothian.

It is probably fair to say that Maxwell did not accomplish his best work in the parish ministry. While his congregations recognized his ability, of which there was ample evidence in his undoubted gifts as preacher, and in his expertise in the ordering of public worship, they were apt to find him a bit beyond them. Like some of his predecessors in the liturgical revival, Harry Wotherspoon, and Cromarty Smith, who also were parish ministers, Maxwell, even in the 1930's and 1940's, was probably ahead both of his people and of his time.

By contrast, to those of us who knew him well, Maxwell was the best of friends and ever a congenial companion. Fond of good company and good living, he had in his make-up something of the old Moderates, who were better men and better ministers than is commonly allowed.

For all that, Maxwell has left his mark on the Church in Scotland. It was here that he developed his studies in the field of worship,

where he ever tried to relate practice to theory, principle and history. Early in his career as an author, the Oxford University Press intimated that they were prepared to publish anything he wrote. In the catalogue of his publications, he will perhaps be best remembered by his *Outline of Christian Worship* (1936) and *Concerning Worship* (1948), but there were many more contributions of equal merit and significance.

It was perhaps unfortunate that no place could be found for Maxwell as a teacher, in any of our Scottish universities, although Glasgow made partial amends by awarding him a well-deserved D.D.

In the end, he left in his scholarly yet practical books on Worship, not only his own best memorial, but a legacy, from which the church will continue to profit for many generations. J. A. F.

MRS MARGUERITE NINIAN HILL

In 1935, Marguerite, youngest daughter of Henry Richer and Marie Thérèse de Parterner, was married to the Rev. Dr. Ninian Hill, the first editor of the *Church Service Society Annual*. Born at Greenock on 27 November 1861, he died on 10 April 1946, in the 86th year of his age. At the time of her passing on 25 June 1971, in the 85th year of her age, Mrs. Ninian Hill was a serving member on the Society's Council. Their combined life span, marked by genuine concern for liturgical revival in the Church of Scotland, was a unique contribution of service and loyalty to the Church Service Society.

Marguerite was a charming lady of simple and child-like faith in the Heavenly Father's goodness and mercy entwined into her life and personality were links with a whole century of different people and settings, ideas, customs, and localities. By her own very unusual whimsy and cheerfulness, she made life more exciting, gay and picturesque than it could ever have been without the unique Mrs. Ninian Hill.

France and the French ethos, music and clothes, the life-boat, the church in many varied aspects, and the Church Service Society were among her enthusiasms. But her chief interest lay in the translation into stone of her beloved Ninian's version of a corner of Christian Scotland in the Holy Land. It was his proposal in the Presbytery of Edinburgh on 12 December 1917, which led to the building of St Andrew's Church and Hospital, Jerusalem, of which he was ordained first minister in 1923.

The ashes of Marguerite Ninian Hill whom we remember with gratitude and affection, now rest beside her husband's ashes in St. Andrew's, Jerusalem. R. S. L.