

THE CHURCH SERVICE SOCIETY

NOTES

Regional Conference

The Society met in Glasgow, at Jordanvale – an elegant Macgregor Chalmers church, and daughter of Govan Old – for the annual conference held in October last.

Holy Communion was celebrated by the President, the Rev. John Heron. Thereafter we turned our attention to the subject for the day, the long awaited new hymnary (*The Church Hymnary: Third Edition*), which was introduced by the Rev. A. Stewart Todd, B.D., St. Machar's Cathedral, Aberdeen, a member of the Church Hymnary Revision Committee. Right away Mr. Todd had everyone singing a selection of the new melodies to be unfolded in the book, thus whetting our appetite for more. Then he proceeded to show how very much the new hymn-book, by the order of its contents, harmonized with the liturgical pattern of Sunday morning service, and further, by the inclusion of the Eucharistic responses and a fine range of Communion hymns, stressed the centrality of the Sacrament in the worship of the Church.

The 40 members and friends who attended were most hospitably received at Jordanvale, and were later conducted round the church by the Minister, the Rev. K. M. Bethune who revealed the history of and changing developments in the parish, as well as the beauties of the church itself.

Centenary Lecture

The endowment of the Centenary Lectureship, founded in 1970, provides for a biennial lecture, the purpose of which is to promote scholarship in the realm of worship.

It was with a sense of occasion, that the members gathered in Edinburgh, at New College, on 13th November, to hear the second Centenary Lecture, delivered by the Rev. Professor J. M. Barkley, Professor of Church History in the Presbyterian College, Belfast. At Aberdeen, on the following day, the same lecture was delivered at Church House.

On the subject, 'The Theology of Liturgy' the lecturer's own wide reading and scholarship were amply evident. It was a characteristically lively address, with many apt quotations and sparkling

Irish wit and humour, but through it all ran the thread of the theme, the centrality of Christ in worship.

After discussion and questions, the appreciation of those present was conveyed to Professor Barkley by Dr. T. H. Keir (at Edinburgh) and by Rev. A. S. Todd (at Aberdeen).