

A DIP IN THE ARCHIVES

The Church Service Society has its very own 'ark of the covenant' - a venerable (if somewhat battered, despite the fact that no Philistine has ever been anywhere near it !) deed box, which has been passed down from Secretary to Secretary, and which contains the publications, records and correspondence of the Society from its founding onwards.

Few are sufficiently aware of the enormous contribution made by the Society towards the ordering and enriching of the worship of the Church. Many who would not think of themselves as being identified with us, worship in a manner in which very possibly they might not have done, had the Society not, in the midst of much opprobrium, given a strong lead in ways which today are accepted as the norm. It is intended, therefore, that in this and future issues of THE RECORD, we should print a short piece highlighting something of value out of our great past. This is done with a deep awareness that we cannot sensibly decide where we are going in the future unless at the same time we understand where we have come from. Foundations are laid to be built upon, and roots are planted for the nourishment of all future growth. Our regular DIP IN THE ARCHIVES will be of far more than antiquarian value.

WGN

DR A K K BOYD (ST ANDREWS) CHAIRMAN OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY,
MAY 26 1870:

"It is a matter of thankfulness to hear how good now are the prayers of our young ministers and licentiates. We are shaking ourselves quite free from the old preaching prayer, very familiar in former days. We are shaking ourselves free, too, from those ugly forms of language which we used to hear in prayer, which sounded as if taken from Scripture, but which were not taken from Scripture or from anywhere else, unless from a floating stock of traditional phrases, in some cases equally offensive to good taste and devout feeling. I believe that the services of the Society have had something to do with the improved taste.

The Society has lived through the little difficulties and misapprehensions attending its start. We have been very happy in our friends and supporters, and the list of members includes men who are appointed to hold the most important charges in the Church. While we have been fortunate in our supporters, we have been equally fortunate in our opponents, and the way in which we have been opposed. There are few better things than to be opposed by the right kind of people."