

EDITORIAL

A glance at the membership of the Council of this Society (see inside back cover) is sufficient to reveal the fact that we have been deeply privileged to have men of great calibre holding the office of President. But at its meeting in February this year, the Council gave consideration to the unfortunate fact that, over the years, the Society has not afforded these men a sufficient opportunity to lead it in new directions. They have held office for two years without being able to leave their stamp upon the life of the Society. They may, therefore, as permanent members of the Council, play an active role in our affairs, but unless they are retired, or living in the vicinity of Edinburgh, it is unlikely that they will be in a position to do so.

At present the major public appearance of the President is the Address he gives upon relinquishing office, but this is, by its very nature and timing, a swan song. Far more is needed in order that the Society may be justified in electing men of real worth to its highest office. Two projected developments may assist in this area:

This year's Autumn Conference will be held at St Mary's, Dundee, and its theme and shape will be left entirely to Bill Macmillan (its Minister and our current President) to determine.

Each issue of The Record will, at the Editor's own suggestion, bear, as a foreword, a contribution from the current President. It is hoped that this will be authoritatively provocative, and thus be a stimulus to fresh discussion and action.

The possibility of extending to three years the President's term of office has also been discussed, without any decision being taken. There may be other ways in which the role of President could be expanded, and members of the Council will be glad to receive suggestions accordingly.

The Editor is once again deeply grateful to Sir Ronald Johnson for his meticulous checking of the typescripts, and on this occasion to Miss Nancy Norman for several hours' painstaking work in making final corrections. Printing costs are considerably reduced by supplying the printer with each page already corrected and assembled, but this imposes a considerable extra burden upon the Editor, who is thus most appreciative of assistance.