

Annual Meeting of the Society

27th May, 1955

THE Annual Meeting of the Society was held in the Martin Hall, New College, Edinburgh, with the Rev. David A. Hodges, B.D., President, in the chair. There was an attendance of about seventy members.

Tribute was paid to the memory of the Very Rev. Marshall B. Lang, T.D., D.D., Senior Honorary President, by whose death, at an advanced age, the Society had lost one of its most eminent, devoted and active members.

Visitors from overseas Churches were welcomed, including the Rev. William A. Alston, a former Moderator of the Victorian Church, who had done most valuable work in furthering the aims of the Society in Australia.

The reports of the Secretary and the Treasurer were submitted and approved. These showed that the membership had been well maintained, and that about 800 copies of the *Annual* had been circulated, including 200 sent to New Zealand. A regional Conference had been held at Glasgow Cathedral, in January, 1955, which was successful in all but attendance, as widespread snow storms had prevented many members in the area from being present.

The urgent need for prompt payment of subscriptions on receipt of the *Annual* was stressed, and the thanks of the Society were expressed to Presbytery Correspondents for their valued services.

An apology was received from Dr Olive Wyon who, owing to illness, was unable to be present to address the meeting, as arranged. The President then introduced the Rev. Dr A. Allan McArthur, Peterhead, who had readily agreed to attend, at short notice. His scholarly and stimulating address, on "The Pattern of Ancient Liturgies and a Blue Print for To-day", was warmly received.

The resignation of the Rev. R. A. Howieson, M.A., as Secretary, owing to pressure of other duties, was accepted with regret; and the Rev. Wm. J. Ross, M.A., Bonnybridge, was elected as his successor.

It was agreed to increase the Annual Subscription to Five Shillings; and the Council were requested to arrange for a One-Day Conference during the ensuing year.

A Campaign for New Members

THE Council has set in hand a campaign to increase substantially the membership of the Society, in order to extend and deepen its influence in the life of the Church. In pursuance of this end a leaflet has been prepared setting forth briefly the history of the Society, its positive contribution to the devotional life of the Church, and the relevance of its aims to the needs of our time.

We believe that many members of the Church, both men and women, would gladly support this movement if they knew more about it ; and it may be that there are still some ministers, here and there, who are either unaware of its existence, or rather uncertain as to its aims.

A copy of the leaflet is enclosed for your use, and you will find printed elsewhere in this issue a list of Presbytery Correspondents. Would you please write on the leaflet, in the place provided, the name and address of the Correspondent, and pass it on to someone who might be interested ? Where a Correspondent has not yet been appointed, those wishing to join the Society should communicate direct with the Secretary. Your co-operation in this way would be greatly appreciated.

As we depend very much on local Correspondents to further our aims, we are anxious to have one appointed in every Presbytery. The Secretary would be pleased to hear from anyone who would be willing to act as Correspondent in a Presbytery at present without one.

It is suggested that members could make our activities more widely known by handing copies of the leaflet to members of Ministers' Fraternals, where such exist ; this might afford an opportunity for discussion.

Many churches now have bookstalls for the display of literature. The leaflet might be usefully employed there to enlist the interest of the general membership of the Church.

Supplies of the leaflet may be obtained, free of charge, from the Secretary, the Rev. W. J. Ross, M.A., Bonnybridge, Stirlingshire.

One Day Conference

THERE was an excellent attendance of members and their friends at a Conference held in the Parish Church of St. Thomas, Newport-on-Tay, on 30th April, 1956.

At the morning session, after the celebration of Holy Communion, the gathering was addressed by the Rev. Thomas H. Keir, M.A., Minister of St. Cuthbert's Parish Church, Melrose, on the subject: "Church Music in the Pattern of Worship". The lecture was of absorbing interest, and was suitably illustrated on a piano; and it should stimulate both ministers and organists to devote more care to the selection and the fitting rendering of the acts of praise in worship. Through the courtesy of Mr Keir we are able to include the substance of his paper in this issue.

In the afternoon Mr Ian Barrie, M.A., A.R.C.O., L.R.A.M., Organist and Choirmaster at the Barony of Glasgow, gave a most informative and thought-provoking paper on "The Place and Function of the Choir in the Worship of the Scottish Church". While recognizing that it was by no means easy, in these times, to recruit and maintain an effective choir, he insisted that a choir will only retain its interest and give of its best when it is given work to do, making wise and discriminating use of the best music available. He made a strong plea for the inclusion of a Prose Psalm, and for the Canticles, where a suitable lead is available. A canticle could, he considered, at least be used occasionally as a substitute for an anthem. And in the interests of fitness and dignity he suggested that in the larger churches consideration might be given to the suitable robing of the choir, as was now becoming customary even in secular choirs.

The President, the Rev. David A. Hodges, B.D., warmly thanked the speakers for their presence and inspiration.

The Conference was very well worth while, and it was a privilege to worship in the beautiful Church of St. Thomas, so admirably designed for our Scottish rite.