

In Memoriam.

DURING the period in which the *Annual* has been in abeyance owing to the War, three of our Presidents, and these the last three to hold office, have died. It is fitting that a brief tribute be paid to them, for each has taken a leading part in the work of the Society, and upheld the principles for which it stands.

THE REV. WILLIAM KNOWLES, B.D. *President*—1934-36.

William A. Knowles prepared himself for his life's work by a long discipline in the most exacting of studies. At school and at the University he took first place in Mathematics, and graduated M.A. with First Class Honours in that subject. The same powers and the same concentration made him first each year in Divinity, and a prizeman in every other class.

He was Assistant for three years to Dr Marshall Lang, in the Barony Church, Glasgow. In 1897 he was ordained and inducted to Kerse Church, Grangemouth, an extension charge, where he laboured for twelve years and built and endowed a beautiful church. His next parish was West Coates, Edinburgh, his last the quiet country parish of Dalton, Dumfriesshire.

While at West Coates he became a member and, almost immediately, Clerk, of the Aids to Devotion Committee, and in 1925 became Convener. "Prayers for Divine Service" (1923 and 1929) was almost entirely his work, and enshrines his devout spirit. In 1930 he became Vice-President of the Church Service Society, and was President from 1934-36.

Through his liturgical work Knowles gained many friends, and was constantly consulted regarding the ordering of special services. His intimate friends, however, were few, but they regarded him with deep affection, and with some degree of reverence. In him they saw an unusual integrity of character. He did not dissipate his powers on a variety of subjects, but concentrated on the service of his Master. To him, as nearly as may be, was granted the prayer of Bishop Ken :

"That all my powers, with all their might,
In Thy sole glory may unite."

With such devotion went, naturally, a deeply reverent spirit. Those who were privileged to take part with him in worship could feel his utter absorption in the unseen and eternal.

His friends felt that his great personal gifts and valued services to the Church never received the recognition which they so richly deserved. But he has his memorial. His work as pastor of souls is stamped on many lives which he led into fuller communion with God ; and by his liturgical work his influence continues to turn the Church, which he loved, to fuller understanding and deeper reverence in the worship of Almighty God.

Arnold's lines fit accurately the outward career of him whom we here thankfully commemorate :

"Labour, that in lasting fruit outgrows
Far noisier schemes, accomplished in repose,
Too great for haste, too high for rivalry."

D. S. M.

THE VERY REV. PRINCIPAL J. HARRY MILLER, C.B.E., D.D.

President—1936-38.

Anyone who knew Dr Harry Miller must have envied the instinctive ease with which he fulfilled the Scripture rule "to serve the Lord with gladness, and come before His presence with a song." He had been bred in an atmosphere of glowing evangelism in which the Gospel was presented not as a time-honoured tradition but as a living power, making always fresh conquests and spreading joy and certitude wherever it came. This radiant temper accounts for much of his success.

A quite ordinary minister, with some of Miller's attractive gifts, of looks and voice and human kindness, might have succeeded as well as he did at Elie or in Roseburn; but how few possess his art of winning, without effort, the confidence and affection of troops of schoolboys! This quality of simplicity and gaiety of heart secured for him throughout his days a quaint following of folk who had not much use for the Church, but who entirely believed in him, and looked to him for guidance.

When he became Warden of New College Settlement this was still a good part of his equipment. He was not blind to the pity and the tragedy of the human situations which he had to face; but they never crushed him, for sunshine and hope and even laughter were never far away. He was triumphantly persuaded that so long as there is the smallest movement of desire in a human soul after God and goodness, so long is the door of God's mercy still open.

Another conspicuous chapter in Miller's story is his experience in France and Cologne in the last War. He had notable gifts of organisation and command, and a moral fearlessness which everywhere secured respect; but it was his youthful buoyancy, his eagerness, his unforced mirth, which secured him friends amongst officers and men alike.

This might all be attributed to a natural gift of charm, but it was enriched and steadied by his early discovery of the mercy of God as ever-prevailing and ever-gladdening. As a son of the light and of the day he walked the common roads, and on the higher tracks he did not fail. In his homely Pleasance Church, in his later days, nothing was more notable than the reverential hush amongst the people. He was not a learned or scrupulous liturgist, but, in coming to this God Whom he knew, he devoted all his gifts to making worship worthy. So, as one psalmist has put it, "In God's Temple everything kept saying—glory!"

W. M. M.

THE REV. OSWALD B. MILLIGAN, M.C., D.D. *President—1938-40.*

Oswald B. Milligan bore a name already notable in the ecclesiastical annals of Scotland, his father and his brother having adorned the Divinity chairs which they occupied respectively in the Universities of Aberdeen and Glasgow. His maternal grandfather was the beloved physician and poet, David Moir—"Delta"—whose delineations of humble Scottish life charmed an earlier generation.

Of such kindred Oswald Milligan was well worthy. His gifts were many and varied, as were also the distinguished services which he rendered to the Church. In Ayr, in Jedburgh, and perhaps most of all in his last parish, Corstorphine, his people found in him an ideal Minister, thoughtful and inspiring in the pulpit, reverent and devout in the conduct of Divine Service, conscientious and sympathetic as a pastor and friend.

In the wider work of the Church he took his full share. He served as a chaplain during the War of 1914-18, and was awarded the Military Cross. In many departments of the Church's activity, and notably on the Board of the Women's Missionary College, his counsel and organising power were greatly valued. The University of Edinburgh conferred on him its Doctorate of Divinity in 1939.

At the time of his death Dr Milligan was Convener of the Committee on Public Worship and Aids to Devotion, and at the same time President of the Church Service Society. These two offices indicate the field in which his best and most enduring work was done. Already, in his little book on *The Practice of Prayer*, and in his writings on the Sacraments, he had given evidence of his deeply reverent and devotional spirit. It is not too much to say that *The Book of Common Order*, 1940, prepared under his Convenership, while it was the work of many hands and embodied the prayers of many centuries, owed more to him than to any other. All who worked with him in its preparation can testify to the time and trouble which he spent on every detail. Another fruit of his last days was his Warrack Lectures on *The Ministry of Worship*, published shortly after his death; and it is worth recording that the remuneration which he received for these lectures was set apart by him to provide an annual prize for an essay by a Divinity student on some topic of liturgical or devotional interest.

Dr Milligan was a man greatly beloved. To the qualities already mentioned he added a rare personal charm, unfailing courtesy, and a rich though quiet vein of humour. His memory will long be a cherished possession in the hearts of his many friends.

T. M.