

## Regional Conference

THE interest and controversy aroused by new departures in church architecture provided a stimulating background for the Annual Conference held at the Kirk of the Greyfriars', on 2nd October, 1961.

The Conference, at which Dr Roy Sanderson presided, commenced with a celebration of Holy Communion. A paper on "Liturgy, Laity and Architecture" was given by the Rev. Professor J. A. Whyte, M.A., of the Chair of Practical Theology and Christian Ethics in St Mary's College, the University of St Andrews, a member of the Society, who seeks to promote new expressions in architectural style.

In his address, Professor Whyte argued convincingly for the increased participation of laity in the worship of the Church, pointing in this, to the need for adherence to the ideals of the Reformed tradition, and also adducing examples from the liturgical thought of other Communion. His closing plea for an arrangement of church buildings to reflect the corporate nature of worship was illustrated by references to well-known examples of past and present styles of architecture, of contrasting design.

Professor Whyte, if the present writer correctly interprets him, is arguing neither for circular, square, nor polygonal churches (the new St Columba's, Glenrothes, is only one experimental approach to the problem, as the old 18th Century T shaped church is another) but for the creation of sanctuaries which would be functional, living embodiments of corporate worship. The paper evoked a keen discussion.

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MEMBERS are asked to note that the next One Day Conference will be held on Monday, 1st October, at Scottish Churches' House, Dunblane. We have been fortunate in securing the services of the Warden, the Rev. Ian M. Fraser, B.D., Ph.D., as the speaker on this occasion. His paper will deal with "The People's part in Worship." We feel sure that the choice of subject, and of the location, offer a day of considerable interest, and we trust that this venture will be supported, not only by those in the Presbytery concerned, but also by our members in the surrounding areas. It is proposed to limit the dispatch of circulars to members who reside within a radius of about 20 miles of Dunblane. Any others from further afield who wish to attend should notify the Secretary, who will be glad to supply full details of the programme.