

EDITORIAL

We congratulate one of our Honorary Presidents, Professor T. F. Torrance, on his being nominated for the Moderatorship of the General Assembly. This is an onerous task in our time, but we believe the man who drove a Land Rover to the gates of St. Catherine's Monastery on Mount Sinai during the war years is well-equipped for the duties which he will be called on to undertake. The Society has had a goodly share of Moderators in its membership since its foundation and Professor Torrance is in fact the fourth of our surviving Hon. Presidents to be called to this office.

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It cannot be right that the church should evade the problems associated with exorcism; neither is it right that the church should only dabble at this point. Much personal and pastoral decision and responsibility is involved. Official authorization of exorcists is practised in some branches of the church and such control of authority may have something to commend it. There is wide scope for further study along the lines laid down unofficially by Dr. Coggan in a recent statement. Collaboration with medical treatment, the context of prayer and sacrament, a minimum of publicity and continued pastoral care are angles which need attention not only in this specialized department.

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In a situation where ministers are said to be in short supply and vacancies are in the 10-15 per cent proportion of charges some regard to the use of ministerial and elder time in attending ordination/induction services is perhaps appropriate. Either we need to centralize inductions at Presbytery meetings or a delegated group of presbyters should be nominated for the task within the bounds of the charge in question.

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Ministers ought to record whole services more frequently and then listen to them. Too much rehearsing could make for artificiality, but many lay people's participation is impoverished by simple faults which could be easily corrected. The full-time experts, too, need to keep an eye on what they do. Last year I attended High Mass in one of Germany's largest cathedrals. This service was notable for its high amount of well-organized and meaningful 'lay participation', but it

was to a large extent ruined by the raucous voice of one of the elderly celebrants relayed to a pitch which exaggerated all its faults.

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Where an antiphonal choir is functioning with the conductor in the aisle it seems inappropriate for elders with offertory plates to march through the middle during the singing. They should either be re-routed or wait until the anthem or other item is concluded.