

THE CHURCH SERVICE SOCIETY NOTES

Regional Conference

In the planning of Conferences the Society is committed to a policy of peregrination — even though this sometimes leads us to a *wee county* where there are fewer members. Yet the purpose of holding a conference is not only to edify, and promote fellowship among the members, but also to facilitate the introduction of new recruits.

At Alloa, in September last, members and friends gathered at St Mungo's Parish Church to hear Mr Robert W. K. C. Rogerson, B.Arch., F.R.I.B.A., F.R.I.A.S., F.S.A.(Scot.), of Bearsden, on "The Preservation and Design of Church Buildings in relation to Worship".

After a short introduction, Mr Rogerson produced, and displayed, a splendid set of slides of church buildings — known and less well known — both in this country and on the continent, most of these exemplifying his own excellent photography. The slides were accompanied by a knowledgeable commentary which illustrated the theme for the day.

There was a useful discussion after lunch, and although we strayed at times from the confines of the subject, all enjoyed the opportunity of sharing together matters liturgical as well as architectural.

At the lunch interval we heard from Dr Brodie a most interesting account of the history of St Mungo's and its buildings, including a visit (thrown in for good measure) to a pictorial exhibition of a Moderatorial tour of duty, mounted at the time for the good people of Alloa.

Hospitality was excellent, and it was obvious that our hosts' plans had been worked out to the minutest detail, not forgetting the sign posting of the car park, and the strategic positioning of elders on reception duty for the arrival of members.

There was an attendance of 15.



THE HANDSEL PRESS

The Handsel Press was set up in 1975 in association with the Scottish Academic Press. It aims to publish theological books falling generally into two categories: those speaking from the "centre" of Christian faith, directed at ministers, theological students and interested laymen, and books which will explore key frontiers with Christian faith and ethics in such fields as education, psychology, medicine and other sciences.

*Here are two titles from the Press
recently published*



1 Theology as Narration

G. A. F. KNIGHT

This work is primarily a verse-by-verse commentary upon the book of Exodus that pays first attention to theology and exegesis, although on occasions important issues such as the relationship between science and magic, the hardening of the heart, the twilight of the gods, etc., are dealt with in some detail.

216 × 138 mm. 236 pp. 905312 01 5 £5.00

2 Space, Time and Resurrection

T. F. TORRANCE

This work deals with the Resurrection in relation to space and time, with special relation to time. It attempts to set out the biblical approach to the Resurrection, in terms of the intrinsic significance of the resurrected one; and shows that the Resurrection is entirely consistent with who Jesus was and what He did, and is continuous with His whole reality.

All this is elucidated in the context of modern scientific thought and questioning, in such a way as to show that far from being frightened into a miserable compromise of the New Testament message of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ in body, it actually allows us to take its full measure. The implications of this are drawn out for eschatology and the renewal of the creation.

216 × 138 mm. 224 pp. 905312 00 7 £5.00

Studies in the Patriarchal Narratives

WILLIAM MCKANE

Studies in the Patriarchal Narratives reflects a general conviction that a historical perspective is needed for Old Testament criticism as well as a particular interest in the history of the criticism of the patriarchal narratives. The author has reacted against the imbalance which results from an undue concentration on what is supposed to be the 'new evidence' which is available for the interpretation of the patriarchal narratives. There is a view that archaeological discoveries have revolutionized the study of the narratives and that, as a consequence, there is nothing to learn from their earlier criticism. The orientation of the study of the narratives towards archaeology has resulted in an almost exclusive preoccupation with questions about their historicity. In an earlier phase of this movement the answers which were given to questions about historicity of the narratives had a positive character, but in a more recent phase there has been a marked negative reaction.

There is a tendency for a modern fashion of scholarship to possess a narrowness and obsessiveness which requires correction. Undue concentration on one line of approach constitutes an impoverishment of the study of the patriarchal narratives, and a vision is needed of a many-sided and ample subject to which there are several avenues of approach and in which there are many areas of interest. The purpose of this book is to deal with aspects of the study of the patriarchal narratives which have fallen into the background at a time when interest has been focused on questions of historicity. When it has been asked in what sense, if any, the stories can be used as historical sources, the province of their literary appreciation has hardly been entered. To enter this province, attention must be focused on the narratives themselves, for the most interesting and crucial literary questions cannot be properly raised so long as the study of the patriarchal narratives is dominated by references to external archaeological attestation.

ISBN 0 905312 03 1

Hardback £5.50

THE HANDSEL PRESS

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The Man in the Manse

RONALD S. BLAKEY

The Man in the Manse is essentially readable, it is laced with relevant, contemporary humour and anecdote and it succeeds in being both informative and entertaining. It tells of the life and work of the Scottish minister in the nineteenth century. As preacher and pastor, as local dignitary and confidant, as scholar and not infrequently as businessman and as husband and head of often a large family his day-to-day life is mapped out from material drawn from a host of diverse original sources.

The whole is set against the background of a century when the Church in Scotland was far from peaceful. The fierce struggle between the Moderates and the Evangelicals, the Disruption, the Revivals and the Heresy Cases, the distinctive problems posed by the rapid growth of the industrialised cities and the first faltering steps towards Scottish Church Reunion, all conspired to keep the Church and its doings in the forefront of the public eye.

ISBN 905312 05 8

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The Kilt beneath my Cassock

RONNIE FALCONER

Three times in Ronnie Falconer's life, the sighting of the Southern Cross was memorable. On S.S. "Baradine" lumbering up the African coast, the stars seemed to spell the end of happiness to a rebellious sixteen-year-old. Thirty-five years later, in Nairobi, and by now a world figure in Religious Broadcasting, he saw them again and realised how fully God had been planning his life. The third sighting was back in the New Zealand of his youth when disillusionment confirmed his faith.

This book tells what happened before and between the sightings—N.Z. youth in pioneer days; care-free student life "Under the Crown" of Aberdeen's King's College; the social conviction of the Hungry Thirties which led him to an Iron Works parish in war-time; twenty-six years in charge of BBC-Scotland's Religious Broadcasting.

The Golden Years of Radio fade into the beginnings of Television fully colourized before he retired. Great events and personalities appear in these pages. Behind-the-scenes tensions mingle with the satisfaction of harnessing the broadcasting media in the service of Scotland and her Kirk. Altogether one man's view of his exciting life.

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