

THE REVEREND JOHN B LOGAN, MA, BD, STM

John Logan, whose death occurred in January, was a member of the Society for over fifty years and was President in 1975-76. Like others of us he would have readily acknowledged the debt he owed to the Society, but in its turn the Society would rightly want to record its appreciation of all he did for it. He regularly attended its meetings and was ever ready to take part in its deliberations, to which he brought a well-trained and scholarly mind. His Presidential Address - "The Holy Ghost and Worship" - was characteristic, evidencing sound scholarship and leading to practical and helpful conclusions. These features indeed were typical of his ministry of Word and Sacrament, for he always paid careful attention to preparation for worship and preaching, anxious alike to be liturgically correct and exegetically accurate, and yet never forgetting that the worship he was to lead was the people's worship and that the word he preached should be as easily understood by its hearers as it should be helpful to them. It was this same sympathy with people and understanding of their needs that made him a pastor held in affection and regard by those to whom he ministered.

John Logan had many interests which he enjoyed sharing with others. He was for many years Hon Secretary of the Scottish Church Theology Society and he took a prominent part in the Fellowship of St Andrew which seeks to encourage a closer understanding with the Eastern Orthodox Church. His interest in liturgical studies, too, made him a useful member of the Assembly's Committee on Worship. He had a ready pen and a gift for poetry which he practiced in the 'guid Scots tongue' as well as in English, and his contributions in various publications, and especially 'Life & Work', were always noticeable and appreciated, breathing as they often did his own deep personal faith.

John Logan was born in Cambuslang but he spent most of his early years in Shetland where his father was minister of the Parish of Dunrossness. He received his later education at Hutchesons' Grammar School, Glasgow, before going to Aberdeen University. After graduating in Arts and Divinity

he studied for a year at Union Seminary, New York. For two years he served as assistant at St Giles' Cathedral, where he was ordained in 1932, by the Presbytery of Edinburgh, as senior assistant. His first charge was Scotstoun East, Glasgow: and later he served in three other parishes - St Stephen's, Edinburgh: Coupar Angus Abbey: and Cranston, Crichton and Ford in Midlothian. He retired in 1970 to live at Crieff and had just moved from there to Haddington before his death.

John Logan was of a friendly nature and those who knew him will cherish memories of his kindly and courteous ways and of his warm companionship. In a sermon he preached at one of the Society's conferences, when he was President, he spoke of the need to 'keep our eyes fixed on Jesus'. In expressing our appreciation of what he did for our Society we give thanks to God for the life and witness of one who by the exercise of his rich and varied gifts helped many including ourselves to clarify their sight in that direction.

W Roy Sanderson