

**RELIGION AND THE MODERN WORLD:
LECTURES DELIVERED BEFORE THE
GLASGOW UNIVERSITY SOCIETY OF
ST. NINIAN; WITH AN INTRODUCTION
BY SIR DONALD MACALISTER**

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RELIGION AND THE
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RELIGION AND THE MODERN WORLD

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WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY
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INTRODUCTION

THE St Ninian Society was founded in 1907, by students in the several faculties of the University of Glasgow, for the purpose of promoting the free discussion by its members of questions bearing on the various aspects of religion. Its method is to invite essays or addresses from men of repute, belonging to diverse schools of thought, which shall illustrate from different sides some single general theme. The addresses form the basis of the Society's subsequent debates on the subject proposed. During the session of 1907-8 these special contributions were deemed to be of such value, that the officers sought and obtained leave to give them a wider publicity, and a first series entitled *Religion and the Modern Mind* was accordingly published last year. The reception of the volume was so encouraging that the Society has decided to issue a second series, consisting of addresses given during the session of 1908-9. By their range and variety these essays attest the breadth of the Society's interest.

It is ready to give heed to all veracious presentations of personal conviction. It will consider on their merits all positions in regard to faith that are capable of serious and reverent argument. The discussions to which the essays gave rise, and the conclusions that were provisionally arrived at, are not recorded: they concern rather the members of the Society than the public at large. But no one can doubt that both the discussions and the conclusions were the better for the preliminary expositions that are here set forth for the benefit of other students of religion in its widest sense. It need hardly be said that each of the contributors speaks for himself. He commits no other, and least of all the St Ninian Society, to the case he advocates. His essay is published in virtue of its intrinsic interest and competence. If it does not persuade its readers, it will certainly inform them. Those who are constrained to examine the intellectual reasons for their belief will be the better equipped for the enquiry, if they are first made conversant with the forces that are actually operating to weaken or to strengthen its foundations.

DONALD MACALISTER.

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW,
1909.

PREFATORY NOTE

IN presenting the second series of St. Ninian Lectures in a permanent form, the Society desires to express its heartiest thanks for the more than generous appreciations of the aims and objects of the Society, and the warm welcome extended to the first volume, which have appeared in the newspapers and reviews. The success of the first volume is sufficient justification for the present attempt to reach a wider audience than that to which these lectures were first addressed.

The syllabuses for 1908-1909, 1909-1910 will be found at the end of the Index. Members of the Society will probably miss some of last session's lectures, but their omission was unavoidable owing to their being subsequently published elsewhere.

For the second time the *St. Ninian Lectures* have been seen through the Press, and an Index prepared by Mr. R. T. Clark, Hon. Secretary to the Society. Acknowledgment may be