

Editorial

THE power of the printed page is more than ever recognized to-day. As an evangelistic and teaching force it cannot be ignored.

The CHURCHMAN therefore extends a very warm welcome to a new contemporary, the first number of which will appear on October 15th. *Christianity To-day* will appear fortnightly, and owing to the generosity of some American friends nearly every Protestant minister in Great Britain will receive a copy of the first number. It is an inter-denominational and international magazine, with headquarters in Washington. The Editor of the CHURCHMAN is associated with it as one of the British contributing editors, and his predecessor, the Rev. F. Colquhoun, is correspondent for England. The primary aim of *Christianity To-day* is to help Protestant ministers (and lay leaders) to a deeper understanding of the Christian gospel. As its Editor, Dr. Carl Henry, has written, "The time is propitious for an enlarged effort by the forces of evangelical Christianity. The swiftly-moving events of our times, and the theological confusion attending the collapse of classic Liberalism, contribute to the climate of uncertainty which we may have a strategic opportunity, at this very moment, to reorient to Christian compass bearings."

Christianity To-day certainly seems to be launched with the makings of a welcome contribution to present day needs. It will contain strong editorials, articles in Biblical literature, apologetics, book reviews, etc., and is said that it will contain the largest Christian news coverage in the world. In the words of one of the founders, "It will present the gospel of Christ with love. It will not engage in fighting, and its position will not be *anti*—though it will reserve the right to give constructive criticism to various aspects of church life with a view to helping."

The CHURCHMAN commends *Christianity To-day* and hopes that readers will do their utmost to promote it. The subscription may perhaps seem a little high for British pockets (it is understood to be 42/- for a year) though it is believed that there are concessions for early subscribers, and in any case this price is not excessive for a twice-monthly production of such scope. It is suggested, however, that where a subscription cannot be afforded personally, clergy might arrange a shared subscription with certain of their laity; local Clerical Associations could also organize shared subscriptions among their members. And a useful task for us all would be to approach our local public librarians asking that a copy should be subscribed for. *Christianity To-day* will be obtainable through Marshall, Morgan & Scott, publishers of the *Church of England Newspaper*, the *Christian*, etc., or through bookstalls. Finally, the Editor of the CHURCHMAN will be glad to receive suggestions for and synopses of articles, which he will pass on to Washington; the writers of any articles accepted would be remunerated by *Christianity To-day* on publication.

The letter from the Bishop of Lahore, published in this issue, is a timely reminder of openings in the service of the world-wide Church for those who are unable to offer for a life's service, or are uncertain of their call. The college in Pakistan which the Bishop singles out, certainly presents, as the Editor saw for himself, a fine opportunity for a man of brains and consecration. Readers in universities and theological colleges should especially consider the possibilities discussed in the letter.

The Church Missionary Society has produced a particularly topical book at this time of crisis in the Middle East. As a result of his recent tour, the Asia Secretary of the Society, the Rev. C. S. Milford, has written *The Middle East—Bridge or Barrier?*¹ In a clear, readable manner he discusses the present position, political and religious, of the seven countries of the area (excluding Saudi Arabia), with especial reference to Egypt, Iran and Jordan. Though the emphasis, naturally, is on the work of the C.M.S. the scope includes the general set-up and direction of events and the contribution of the various Christian communities. Mr. Milford has the gift of assessing tensions and directions of progress in such a way that the reader gets a really lucid understanding of the dangers and opportunities of this highly explosive area. It is surely significant that the two great organized oppositions to the spread of the Gospel at the present day, Communism and Islam, should be working in increasing co-operation. The pattern of events, though outwardly political, is religious. It is the responsibility of us all to take trouble to get a clear grasp of the situation, and do what we can to help.

Another book which should receive a wide reading is Professor J. S. Stewart's *Thine is the Kingdom*.² Professor Stewart is well known for his terse, challenging style and in this book (based on his Duff lectures) he explores the whole basis of the Church's work in the world, in its local, its personal and its expansionary aspects. He presents a graphic and illuminating examination of our responsibilities and opportunities. He bids us gird up our loins afresh: "Nearly all the great missionary hymns of the Church envisage the spreading of the Gospel light throughout the world until the last shadows have been dispelled. Is this a hope we must renounce? . . . This is not simply the old secular doctrine of progress being proclaimed with a Galilean accent. It is not idealism baptized into Christ. It stems from the Gospel itself. For from the hour when the new Creation appeared in Jesus and the Kingdom of heaven entered history, God by His Spirit has been immanent in the Church which is Christ's Body; and there is no limit that can be assigned in history to the reach and penetration of the Cross and no end to the power of the Resurrection."

¹ *The Middle East—Bridge or Barrier?* by C. S. Milford (Highway Press, pp. 92, 4/6).

² *Thine is the Kingdom* by J. S. Stewart (St. Andrew's Press, pp. 74), 7/6.