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Editorial

IN the preparation of the present issue of *THE CHURCHMAN*, dealing as it does with a somewhat specialized theme, the Rev. J. Stafford Wright (a member of the Editorial Board) has given invaluable assistance and advice. The Editor takes this opportunity of expressing gratitude to Principal Wright for his help, and also for kindly contributing the remainder of this Editorial, in addition to the article on Parapsychology which follows in later pages. F.C.

When each issue of a periodical is centred in a definite theme, there is always the likelihood that this theme will not interest all its readers. The theme of this number, however, should be of fairly wide interest, since it concerns that most interesting of all subjects, ourselves! We are trying to understand some of the things that are involved in our existence as human beings.

Our generation is moving slowly but surely out of the period when the doctor treated the body as an isolated unit, the psychiatrist similarly treated the mind, and the minister treated the soul, or spirit. Treatment now is psycho-somatic. The Christian must move a step further, and insist on pneumatopsychosomatic treatment. In putting the claims of the spirit first, we do not mean that the spiritual must swallow up the mental and physical, since the Biblical idea of man is that he is a unity. Not everything that a "spiritual" man does is a manifestation of the Spirit of God, and some of his religious acts may be symptoms of a neurosis, or may need to be assessed from the standpoint of mind and body, as well as of spirit.

Shall we then conclude that the only qualified adviser for man in his troubles is one who has been highly trained as a doctor, a psychiatrist, and a theologian? Or, on the contrary, shall we dismiss the whole thing as unworthy of Christian study? This is one of the issues where feelings are easily roused to take an extreme position. But, if we are wise, we shall try to gain some acquaintance with writings which will help towards a true assessment of man as a unity, even though we may never become experts in any single branch of man's nature.

This issue of *THE CHURCHMAN* is intended to help to this end. The first article gives a survey of recent books that are useful for pastoral psychology. These books are not for the minister only, and most of them may be profitably studied by all who are engaged in any Christian witness—which should mean most of our readers. We shall only extract the highest value from the books if we take the trouble to examine ourselves while we read them, even though it is easier to apply them to others.

Another article deals with some of the things that Christian workers encounter in certain forms of human experience, good and bad, religious and non-religious. Inevitably it is limited, but the first article will be a guide to further reading.

The third article is a practical example of one important sphere of the spirit-mind-body relationship. This is marriage, and Dr. D. Sherwin Bailey seemed the proper man to approach in view of his recent book, *The Mystery of Love and Marriage*.

The fourth article calls attention to a field of the Mind that is of very great importance, being relevant to the Biblical records, to Christian apologetics and experience, and to philosophy in general. This is the new science of parapsychology, which has more ramifications than can be dealt with in a single article, though its significant points have been indicated here.

The present writer was asked by the Editor to be responsible for the planning of these four articles, but each contributor has been free to develop his subject in his own way. It should hardly be necessary to add that none of us supposes that psychology is any substitute for the Gospel.

J.S.W.

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