

Editorial.

THIS issue of "The Churchman" is devoted to the papers read at the recent Oxford Conference of Evangelical Churchmen which was held in London. "Confirmation" was the subject chosen for consideration, with special reference to the Report—"Confirmation To-day."

The Report makes proposals in an attempt to solve the problem of the large number of infants who are baptised but fail to become regular communicant members of the Church; according to the figures given, out of every 100 children born, 67 are baptised, 26 are confirmed, but only 9 continue as Easter communicants.

Many are of the opinion that the proposals for dealing with this urgent problem are open to severe criticism, not only for certain obvious practical reasons but also, and this is our main concern, because of the theology upon which they are based. Realising the importance of a scholarly examination of the doctrinal statement in the Report, the Conference devoted the major portion of its time to this aspect of the subject.

Now that the Report has been commended to the Church for discussion, the papers given at the Conference will be of valuable help to Evangelicals when they have the opportunity of making their contribution. The whole subject demands very earnest consideration on the part of all who are concerned with the spiritual welfare of the Church.

Unfortunately, the time available at the Conference this year for discussion was so limited that it was quite impossible to issue the usual "Findings." The papers, therefore, are published as read, and do not necessarily express the opinion of all the members of the Conference. Their value, however, as important and scholarly contributions to a very vital subject is obvious.