

Editorial

ONE of the early duties of the new Convocations and the House of Laity is a consideration of the Report on the Revision of the Canons. It is important, therefore, that readers should know their minds lest much should be lost by default. As Mr. Horsefield writes, "A good many people probably deplore the whole business of revision *in toto*. I cannot think that this attitude of mind is well-conceived, though it is certainly attractive." Mr. Horsefield, Vice-chairman of the House of Clergy in the Canterbury Convocation now dissolved, and standing for re-election, is eminently suited to guide our thinking, and his comments should be well pondered, and especially his conclusion on page 75.

We must not be afraid of controversy, though it is a sign of God's blessing in recent years that the controversial spirit is increasingly restricted to matters of importance, while most of the energy which Evangelicals used to spend in barren argument is devoted to work of the new revival of religion in the land. It is too early to speak of a third Evangelical Awakening; it must not be forgotten that fifty years ago there were signs of revival when comparatively great crowds attended the evangelistic ministry of Torrey and Alexander. But though many men and women were then brought into the life of the Church no lasting revival followed and the decay of religious life continued. Many of the weaknesses of that work of fifty years ago are not inherent in the present Crusade movement. But it is probably true that the next eighteen months are crucial and will show whether a lasting revival, as deep and widespread as that in the mid-eighteenth and mid-nineteenth centuries, is to come. Under God, it depends much on our faithfulness and wisdom.

THE CHURCHMAN this month welcomes a new contemporary, CRUSADE. CRUSADE, as many readers know, is sponsored by the Evangelical Alliance and is edited by the former editor of THE CHURCHMAN, the Rev. Frank Colquhoun, and the Rev. Timothy Dudley Smith. Those who have enjoyed the ministry of similar magazines published in America will know their value. The apparent success of a recent British publication with a much less definite aim should suggest that CRUSADE will find a ready public, and every reader of THE CHURCHMAN should encourage his friends or parishioners, whatever their intellectual or spiritual level, to take in a magazine which can instruct, edify, entertain and evangelize. Its cost is 1/6 monthly.

THE CHURCHMAN very seldom identifies itself with appeals but it is glad to encourage the Rebuilding Fund of the London College of the Divinity. The Appeal authorities write: "The London College of Divinity (better known as St. John's College, Highbury) is to be re-

erected at Northwood, Middlesex, in the Parish of which the founder of the Church Army was formerly vicar. Wilson Carlile was himself prepared for ordination at St. John's Hall, Highbury. Before the war St. John's was the largest evangelical training ground for Church of England Clergymen in the country. During the war years the buildings in Highbury were completely destroyed, and for the past eight years the College has been carried on in a country mansion at Lingfield in Surrey. It is hoped that the new College in Northwood will be ready for occupation early in 1957.

"The cost of the new buildings is estimated at £200,000, of which some £160,000 is already in hand. An appeal is being made for the balance of £40,000 by the council of the College, and contributions will be gratefully acknowledged by the Appeal Organizer, Mr. A. F. Dence, Braidswood, 1, Linden Park, Tunbridge Wells."

Another appeal of a different sort is being made in the columns of the religious press, and the Editor takes the liberty of drawing attention to it. The Children's Special Service Mission is asking those who have played any part in the work of the Mission, or whose parents or families in earlier generations worked with it, to send in their memories and to lend any old manuscript material. A full-length book about the history of the C.S.S.M., showing something of what God has achieved through the Mission in the past ninety years, is to be written by the Editor of THE CHURCHMAN. He hopes that his readers will be kind enough to turn out old drawers and box-rooms, where may well be letters and diaries descriptive of work in the early days. Recently he had occasion to study manuscript diaries of two members of the Cambridge Seven, and in both he found detailed firsthand descriptions of C.S.S.Ms in 1884—one at Bournemouth and the other at Scarborough. It is surprising what a rich yield a turn out of old letters and papers may give, and even a casual read of the records of the stalwarts of old will often prove an inspiration. Material should be sent to The C.S.S.M. History, 5 Wigmore Street, London, W.1.
