

Editorial

THE recent trade recession has posed many problems for politicians, manufacturers, and consumers. Statesmen have begged the people to loosen their purse-strings and circulate money by spending. But the wary man in the street wants good value for his money. His sales resistance, under continual attack from the advertising profession, has provoked certain manufacturers to suggest that the public exists to buy their products. These claims are unrealistic. In many cases it is just the other way round: the manufacturer exists to produce what the people want and, above all, what they need, at a price they can afford. There is a legitimate profit to be made, but its extent must be carefully scrutinized. It is true that novelties and inventions teach us new necessities, yet we are probably safe in assuming that what must be supplied are existing needs and desires.

What is the relevance of this to the editorial page of a theological journal?

For one thing, a journal is a commercial enterprise of sorts. It must have customers who provide the dollars and cents that pay the costs of production, and these alone. There are no financial profits to be made by the Directors or members of the corporation. Our contributors, we regret to say, are not paid for their articles, though they do receive some off-prints. The reports to the corporation Annual Meeting on 15th May last showed that, in terms of commerce, the *Canadian Journal of Theology* is very much alive. So far as circulation goes, the numbers are remarkably good after almost four full years of existence. On the other hand, our expenses are still not being met by subscriptions. We would like to remind our friends, therefore, that donations would be most welcome. Quite the best thing would be an Endowment Fund to take care of the major cost of printing each year.

Are the customers satisfied with the product?

The answer to that crucial question seems to be that, on the whole, they are pleased with the high quality of theological writing in this *Journal*. There is one important reservation: not enough material is provided that is of immediate relevance to the minister, the priest, the pastor, in their preaching office and their congregational services. Perhaps that is not surprising, for the primary concern of our magazine has always been the discussion of issues at a serious theological level; and theology, alas, is not every man's meat. But the criticism is entirely relevant because we hope to hear the Gospel as it speaks to contemporary problems, to politics, culture, and life as a whole. Our readers have requested more articles of this kind, and the Editorial Committee has already recognized this by the appointment of a committee to solicit manuscripts and to encourage the ministers concerned to write for us. Again, the Committee has adopted the policy of including biblical expositions that may stimulate preachers and pastors, exegetically and also theologically, without spoon-feeding them. We are

bound to report, however; that the supply of articles of the sort we are asked for is quite inadequate. Writers are needed. Manuscripts are hereby invited. We beg our readers to remember the basic aims of the *Journal* and to realize that we can publish homiletical and pastoral material only if it reaches a certain standard. We are grateful for the criticisms that have been offered, and hope that constructive suggestions will continue to flow in. May we invite our readers, in return, to promote the circulation of the *Journal* in their churches and colleges, and among the interested laymen of Canada?

Like many throughout the Christian world Canadians will regret the passing of two distinguished New Testament scholars, of the same name and nationality though not related. Dr. William Manson died in Edinburgh on 4th April, six years after his retirement from the Chair of Biblical Criticism. He had taught previously in Knox College, Toronto, to which he returned as Visiting Professor in 1953-54. He was a meticulous scholar, author of a commentary on St. Luke, an important study of the Epistle to the Hebrews, and other books that have made us all his debtors. It has been announced that his last volume will appear shortly, *The Way of the Cross*, in which his personal devotion to Christ as Saviour finds fullest expression. Dr. T. W. Manson, Rylands Professor of Biblical Criticism and Exegesis in the University of Manchester, died on May 1st at his home in Milnthorpe, Westmoreland. A brilliant scholar at Glasgow and Cambridge in philosophy and classics, he turned to the New Testament and especially to Aramaic and the teaching of our Lord. In *The Teaching of Jesus*, *The Church's Ministry*, *The Servant-Messiah*, *The Sayings of Jesus*, and many articles in the bulletin of the John Rylands Library, Dr. Manson had offered quite significant interpretations. He had rare gifts of imagination and humour, and his fertile research has greatly enriched contemporary New Testament scholarship. When he lectured across Canada a few years ago, he made many friends.

The 150th Anniversary of The British and Foreign Bible Society was celebrated in 1954 and in connexion therewith a new edition of the Society's text of the Greek New Testament was prepared by Dr. G. D. Kilpatrick, Queen's College, Oxford, in collaboration with Dr. Erwin Nestle of the Württemberg Bible Society. Notable features of the new edition, which was published on 7th May, 1958, are improved orthography, the printing of poetical passages as verse, citation of much new evidence including the recently discovered Bodmer papyrus of St. John's Gospel, and the attention paid to the work of British scholars of the period 1904-54. This convenient text is likely to enjoy the same success as its predecessor in the schools and colleges of many lands. Our congratulations to the Editor are the more warm for the knowledge that he would seem to be the first Canadian to edit the text of the Greek New Testament.

G.J.