

Editorials

THE EDITOR REPORTS

IT SEEMS to have become a tradition—as “traditions” go in our young country—that each January the Chairman of the Editorial Committee should remind our readers what the *Journal* is trying to do and tell them how it is getting on. More than once this report has been strongly flavoured with homiletic spice, as the writer preached for the conversion of those who seemed to care too little for what the *Journal* was attempting to supply. This time we shall be more strictly factual. We have at least two significant pieces of information to impart, and the moral (such as it is) will have to be left to the last paragraphs.

Observant readers of our last number may have noticed that the inside front cover, bottom line, which had formerly run “Printed by the University of Toronto Press, Toronto,” now reads “Published by. . . .” We are proud to announce that the University of Toronto Press, already widely known as a publisher, at once prolific and discriminating, of scholarly books and journals, has added this *Journal* to its list. In addition to the prestige of publication by such a distinguished press, we stand to gain at least two very tangible benefits from this new relationship: (a) a subsidy to help meet our heavy expenses; (b) valuable technical assistance from the Editorial Department of the Press.

This degree of sponsorship by the University of Toronto Press does not affect the control of the *Journal* by its own Board of Directors, and it will not involve any changes in basic editorial policy. However, in the interests of more efficient planning and management, the Board of Directors has decided, with the full approval of the Editorial Committee, to change the editorial structure. For a two-year period ending in July, 1963, the Chairman of the Editorial Committee has been appointed Editor, with responsibility to the Board of Directors alone. The plan is admittedly experimental—hence the limited commitment. For one thing, we do not know whether one person can competently handle the volume of work as a strictly part-time activity. For another thing, we cannot be sure that the advantages of centralized management will compensate for the hazards inherent in one-man rule. But the Directors have provided for competent secretarial assistance; two experienced Associate Editors and an Advisory Committee will be available for consultation and help; and we hope that the new system will work.

The Editor assumes his enlarged responsibilities with some qualms. The Editorial Committee, which now becomes the Editorial Advisory Committee, has brought the *Journal* a long way and has done yeoman service to

Canadian theological scholarship. No one who has not served on the Committee can appreciate the amount of time and thought readily given by busy professors and pastors to the work of the *Journal*. The Chairman of the Committee could scarcely have dared to try to absorb the tasks of such an experienced, wise, and willing group if he had not known that his colleagues would still be generous with their help and advice whenever he called upon them.

The new Editor would like to add a word about one of the Editorial Committee's "elder statesmen," who has recently retired from active membership. Among the patient and hopeful planners who undertook and carried through the very large task of recovering for English-speaking Canada a vehicle for the publication of Canadian theological work, one member of the faculty of Emmanuel College, Victoria University, Toronto, stands out. The debt that the *Journal* owes to Dr. John Line is immense. His imagination and confidence did much to get us going, and his perseverance and encouragement have been invaluable. Our regret at his withdrawal from active work with us is tempered only by the assurance that his interest and goodwill will continue to be ours.

It will be the new Editor's concern to carry on the policy and maintain the standard established by the Editorial Committee. Our new experiment was feasible only because the Committee had so clearly defined and so effectively maintained the character of the *Journal*. Without having it become a technical publication in the fields of historical or philosophical theology, we have aimed and shall continue to aim at scholarly accuracy and theological seriousness. We remain convinced that there is a place in Canada for a publication like ours, which gives our theological teachers and other scholars a forum where they can contribute to the thinking of the Church at large; which helps to acquaint Canadian readers with the theological work that is being done outside Canada; which represents in its pages the thinking of most of the major Christian communions; and which provides responsible criticism of new books about which ministers, priests, and theological teachers should know something.

Now for the moral. We have entered on a new phase of our work, but our essential aims remain the same, and that means that our basic needs will also be the same.

In the first place, we shall still need money to work with. Our new relationship with the University of Toronto Press has greatly eased our financial burden, but we shall still want the help of generous friends who believe in what we are trying to do. A number of our Church universities and theological seminaries are showing their concern for our work by making some place for us in their already overburdened budgets, but there is room for more help if the *Journal* is to be placed on a sound financial footing. The experience of other similar publications makes it plain that we cannot expect to carry on our work (limited though it is) for Christian scholarship without regular support over and above our ordinary revenues.

Secondly, we need more good contributions, particularly in the field of pastoral theology and practice. We want to give Canadian pastors and teachers a chance to discuss Canadian problems, but it is hard to find writers who will raise them. Our Canadian churches are not short of men with varied and valuable experience, and we only wish that more of these men would let us hear from them. If we have published little material of direct relevance to concrete pastoral problems, the reason is not that we have been too free with rejection slips; our trouble has been that we have had little to consider at all.

We call our readers' attention to our "Notes and Comments" feature, which was introduced last July and reappears in this issue. We hope that those who would like to raise questions or initiate a discussion, or who have an idea to share or a piece of information to record for which this briefer form seems more suitable than a full-length article, will offer us their contributions. The Editor would also be pleased to have a look at some good examples of the preacher's art, in the hope that at least occasionally it might be possible to include a seasonal sermon in the *Journal*.

We are not ashamed of what we have already done. For a small group of busy people publishing a quarterly in the limited time they could spare, we do not think that we have done too badly—and we are glad to find that many competent observers agree with us. But we know that we could do a much better job, and we call on our readers and friends to help us.

E.R.F.

THE EDITOR REGRETS

OWING TO a mishap for which neither the Editor nor the Publishers were responsible, the last issue of the *Journal* was late in going to press, and this delay has set back our publication schedule. We confidently expect to be back on our normal time-table by the next issue. Meanwhile, we ask our readers' forbearance.

To avoid further delay of the last issue, the volume index for 1961, which would properly have been included in it, has been held over to this number. We plan to revert to the more convenient arrangement in 1962.

E.R.F.