

Editorial Notes

An Indian Christian Theological Conference: The fourth Indian Christian Theological Conference, organized under the auspices of the Board of Theological Education of the National Christian Council, met at the Gurukul Lutheran Theological College, Madras, from 28th to 31st December, 1960. Convened by Dr. P. David, Principal of Gurukul, and presided over by Dr. P. D. Devanandan, Director of the Christian Institute for the Study of Religion and Society, the Conference took up for special study the general theme 'Christian View of Man in Society'. The Conference had an observer from the Roman Catholic Church in the Rev. Father P. De Letter, who observed that the attendance at the meeting was very instructive and stimulating.

A report of the Conference as well as two out of the seven papers read at it are published below. We hope to bring out the remaining papers also most probably in the next number.

One concrete outcome of the Conference was the formation of the Indian Christian Theological Association. Its draft constitution and an announcement about it by Dr. Herbert Jai Singh, the Secretary-Treasurer, are also printed below. We wish the Association every success.

The Birth Centenary of Rabindranath Tagore: From 8th May, 1961, the birth centenary of the renowned Indian poet is being celebrated with great éclat all over India and in many parts of the world. The winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913 and the founder of the Visva-bharati University, Santiniketan, Rabindranath Tagore has left behind him living memorials of his deserved eminence. He will continue to live not only in the great institution which he designed and founded, but also in the remarkable stream of his contributions to art, literature and philosophy. It is very fitting that the Indian nation has taken advantage of the one-hundredth anniversary of his birth to pay him tribute. We deem it a pleasant privilege to associate ourselves most heartily with the celebration.

The Bicentenary of the Birth of William Carey: 17th August, 1961, is the two-hundredth anniversary of the birth of William Carey, the great missionary pioneer of the nineteenth century. Carey's illustrious life is a clear indication of how God does use a man, completely dedicated to His service.

Born in the Midlands of England on 17th August, 1761, Carey spent more than thirty years of his life in his native land and subsequently, out of a strong inner urge to preach the Gospel to the people of India, he left his own country and arrived in Calcutta

in 1793. In spite of variegated obstacles he remained ever since loyal to the call with which he believed he had been called. Guided by the motto, 'Expect great things from God ; Attempt great things for God', he surrendered his life and everything he had to the service of the Lord Jesus Christ. In His marvellous providence God blessed his labours to the benefit of the Church as also of the Indian nation. As for the Church, besides the evangelistic work and the translation of the Bible into several Indian languages, he, with his associates, Marshman and Ward, founded the Serampore College, which later became the University College for Theology for the whole of India. As for the Indian nation, in addition to his recognized contribution to the Bengali literature, he was one of the chief figures, whose wholesome influence wielded itself in the areas of education and social reform. We are publishing below an article on 'William Carey and the Education of India' by Mr. M. A. Laird.

We humbly pay our most sincere tribute to the memory of that great soul and beg to associate ourselves with the celebration of the two-hundredth anniversary of his birth.