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Editorial

The Churchman

THIS issue marks the end of a significant chapter in the history of *The Churchman*, which will be celebrating its centenary in 1979. Our publishers, Church Book Room Press, who are now to be known as Vine Books Ltd., have developed at Dean Wace House an efficient printing unit which has been able to produce high quality work. The circulation of *The Churchman* remains too small to justify letter-press printing at today's costs. It has therefore been unanimously decided that, as from the January issue of 1977, typesetting and printing will be done at Dean Wace House. It is with very considerable regret that we have been obliged to part with our printers, Stanley L. Hunt of Rushden. They took over the printing of *The Churchman* some thirty-five years ago, after the former printers had been bombed. Their work has been of high quality and the present editor can testify to their courtesy and helpfulness at all times. We also note with gratitude that they have been extremely generous in their terms. It has been a pleasure to do business with such a good Christian firm.

Our problem is basically one of circulation. There are a great number of people who might be expected to read *The Churchman* who do not subscribe to it, and indeed a great number of clergy and lay members of synods do not take any theological journal or do any serious Christian reading. Vine Books has a new marketing manager and it is intended that there should be a promotional drive in connection with the new style of production of *The Churchman*, but all our readers can do us a service by recommending to their friends that they might subscribe too. By today's standards seventy-five pence is not a great sum to pay. The editorial board is meeting early in November to discuss policy and any suggestions from well-wishers as to how to make *The Churchman* more effective will be warmly welcomed. We are aware that the Anglican church outside England is not always too well represented in our pages and we hope to review and strengthen our

system of overseas correspondents. There is evidence that *The Churchman* is having a fair amount of influence in the Church of England today but this influence needs to be felt more at all levels and on the worldwide scene. Meanwhile we are glad that Church Society thinks the journal important enough to keep going with a substantial subsidy.

In order to use up all the type which has been set up by Hunt's we have made this a bumper 96 page issue, instead of the usual 80 pages. The review of John Stott's *Christian Mission in the Modern World* by Bishop Stephen Neill was first published in the magazine of All Souls', Langham Place. Material at present being prepared for printing in the January 1977 number includes an important review article on the works of Edwin Orr by Max Warren and a long overdue review article on recent New Testament literature by the Editor.

'The Times' and 'The Churchman'

WE are grateful to the quality dailies for the way in which they have quoted a number of important articles from *The Churchman*. In particular we have had good treatment from *The Times*. It was unfortunate therefore that the articles of Douglas Davies and Vita Toon in the July issue were quoted on July 12th alongside a preview of a television broadcast by Don Cupitt under the heading 'Churchmen's attitudes hardening against Charismatics'. My letter to the Editor of *The Times*, suggesting that this heading was inappropriate for the content of the articles, was not published, though a subsequent letter by Douglas Davies was. Far from attitudes hardening our experience has been that there has been a growth of understanding and it is intended that the careful examination of these and other issues in our columns should promote unity rather than division.

Mixed Marriages

IT is not often that even a commission in the church takes eight years to reach its final report and then waits another one while it is published. But such is the importance for relations between the churches, and perhaps more important for the relations of the parties themselves, of the Roman Catholic attitude towards marriages between members of their church and of other churches, that the work had to be done thoroughly. The report *Anglican—Roman Catholic Marriage* (CIO and Catholic Information Office 1976, 31 pp., £0.50) has some significant recommendations the chief of which allow the parties to choose in which church they wish to be married and forbid the Roman Catholic priest from extracting promises about the upbringing of the children as Roman Catholics. This will be a useful framework but how it works out in practice will depend a great deal on local conditions and personalities.

R.E.N.