

# The Indian Journal of Theology

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# Book Notices

*Evanston Speaks: Reports from the Second Assembly of the World Council of Churches, August 15–31, 1954.* 116 pp. Published for The World Council of Churches by S.C.M. Press, London, 1954. 2s. 6d.

This is an official interpretative volume on the Evanston Assembly of the World Council of Churches, intended for the thoughtful Christian who is concerned about the issues that confront a divided Christendom. It contains, in addition to 'the message of the Assembly' addressed to 'all our fellow Christians', the reports of the six sections of the Assembly which 'are the product of a long process of corporate thinking both before and during the Assembly'. They were 'received by the Assembly and commended to the Churches for study and appropriate action'. This is specially significant because the authority of the Assembly is not legally binding on any member Church, and the really valuable results of the Assembly must be seen in the consequences that it can effect in the life of the member Churches, partly through their own study and discussion of the documents that came out of the Assembly.

To each of the reports is prefixed an introduction and some questions prepared by the officers of the section concerned, to explain the context in which the report is to be understood and to help discussion on it. It is to be hoped that this and other documents of the World Council will receive the attention that they deserve from the member Churches and individual Christians.

M. P. J.

*Behold, I stand at the Door and Knock:* by the Rt. Rev. A. J. Appasamy. 6as. *The River of Life and An Outpouring of the Holy Spirit:* by the same author. 4as. Available from the author, Ratna Vilas, Trichy Road, Coimbatore.

These short booklets make good pentecostalist reading. I use the words, of course, advisedly and in all seriousness. In chapter 4 of *The Household of God*, Bishop Newbigin suggests that the stream of Christian pentecostalist tradition must have its place alongside the Catholic and Protestant traditions in any true ecumenical Christianity. Well, we find in these booklets the record of certain recent and notable movements of the Holy Spirit, through which He has been recognizably present with power among Christians in the Diocese of Coimbatore. Church order in this diocese has not been allowed to damp church ardour. And, what is perhaps more important, real envies and factions have been and are being healed through all this. These are not theological booklets. They are accounts—sometimes rather repetitive accounts—of a number of revivalist campaigns. But they should be read. They are live field material, in which the theologian may profitably research and dig about. He can then go on to discuss theologically and reasonably the nature of the true pentecostalism.

A. C. M. H.