

Editorial

THE present policy of *The Churchman* is to take up some selected subject, and to print four or five articles centring on this theme. The Editor may depute someone who, in consultation with himself, will be responsible for gathering the needed material.

The result can be seen in the present issue, which is concerned with the work of the Holy Spirit. In building up the theme, it seemed to be unnecessary to include aspects of the subject that could easily be gathered from the standard textbooks. Thus there is no article on the Person of the Holy Spirit. On the other hand it would have been unusual to arrange a series on the Holy Spirit without including something on Sanctification. What we needed was a careful summary of the relation between the Holy Spirit and Christian conduct, and this has been provided by the Rev. R. E. Higginson, Vicar of St. Peter's, Halliwell, Bolton.

Something was needed on the inward experience that the Holy Spirit imparts to the Christian. This is specially important in view of modern movements in mysticism. Are they friends or foes? How far can they be equated with the New Testament experience of the Spirit? The present writer has attempted an estimate of this as one who has obtained much help even from those writers whom he has criticized.

A subject that is very much to the fore at the moment is Spiritual Healing. Several books have been published on it in the last two years. There was one that was specially helpful by the Rev. F. L. Wyman, Rector of St. Paul's, York, entitled *Commission to Heal* (S.P.C.K., 2/6). It has the true Evangelical ring, and furthermore it has a foreword by a doctor, who has also given his own report on several of the cases of healing that Mr. Wyman records. Up to now Evangelicals appear not to have made up their minds on this matter. It therefore seemed right to ask Mr. Wyman to state the case for spiritual healing in an article.

Thus we have articles on the relation of the Holy Spirit to Christian conduct, to the inner life, and to the body of the Christian. This tips the scales heavily on the individualist approach. We therefore needed an article on the Holy Spirit and the corporate life of the Church, and this we asked Canon J. E. Fison of Rochester to undertake.

Each writer, of course, has been free to express what he believes to be the truth, and none accepts responsibility for all that the others say. There may be occasional differences between them. The purpose of this Quarterly is not to produce a standard set of "findings", but to stimulate sound thinking on Evangelical lines. We hope that in this we have succeeded.