

Editorial

The Church of this century has succeeded magnificently in the task of bringing new life to every part of her being; that the process still continues need not prevent our recognizing the magnitude of what has already been achieved. In thinking about it we are naturally inclined to emphasize its more obvious manifestations, the liturgical movement, the revival of scripture studies, the new sense of responsibility among lay people. Behind all these lies something more important: a renewed theological exploration of the living reality which revelation presents to our faith, the risen Christ in whom we live through the Spirit.

The phrase 'biblical theology', so often used in this connection, at once indicates a certain tension. Ultimately it is the tension in all human knowledge between the reality grasped and the conceptual reasoning by which it is grasped, a tension we try to loosen by falsely emphasizing the importance of the one or the other. For most Catholics in the recent past the emphasis lay with the abstractions, with a text-book terminology separated from the scriptural presentation of the living Christ. Now that all this is changing, men begin to make the opposite mistake, trying to set aside the results of the Church's long struggle with words and meanings, sealed, it must be remembered, by the special presence of the Spirit. It is true that theology can turn into a mere academic game, as for that matter can scripture studies, when torn from faith-given contact with the divine reality, but on the other hand those who try to by-pass the theological expression of the Church's 'holy teaching' are in danger of setting forth another gospel from the one they have received. Novelties in theology are not the evidence of life they are often taken to be; more important though less obvious is the renewed growth of every existing part, such as we are now witnessing.

In recent years there have been plenty of novelties in theological writing to catch the eye. Yet when the time comes for a true assessment of the 'books of the century', it is something of a different kind that will be remembered. F. X. Durrwell's great work, *The Resurrection*, recently translated most successfully into English, is the subject of the first article in this month's LIFE OF THE SPIRIT, where it is discussed against the background of that biblical theology it exemplifies. To meet it for the first time is to experience a profound re-orientation of thought; we recommend it most strongly to every reader of this journal.