

Editorial

The present number of the Journal contains papers on Baptism and Conversion read at the southern regional conference of the Indian Christian Theological Association, held at Tambaram in December 1966. As it is the first issue to appear without the guidance of the Rev. K. N. Jennings as literary editor, we should take the opportunity of expressing our gratitude to him for all that he has done for the Journal during the past four years.

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We also welcome with interest the appearance of a new theological journal in India—the *Bangalore Theological Forum*, published by the Department of Research and Post-graduate Studies of the United Theological College, Bangalore. The first issue contains a series of lively articles which will stimulate serious thought on the relation of Christian traditions to the Indian *milieu*.

While welcoming this new voice among us, may we venture to hope that in our enthusiasm to 'relate' the Gospel, we shall not overlook the prior question of what the Gospel is, and whether it is true. It is to these questions that we in India must (in common with the whole Church) continue to address ourselves, and for good or ill that means involvement with the whole enterprise of Christian scholarship, at present concentrated in the West. Involvement but not submersion. If truth is (in some sense) one, our answers must be worked out in dialogue with the traditions of scholarship in the Church Universal, however intimidating its weight may be. Yet the answers must be our own, and cannot be taken over ready-made from some currently fashionable Western school of theological thought. We must dig our own foundations, so that the edifice of Indian Christian Theology may be no jerry-built affair, liable to collapse with every shift in the sub-structure of Western theological fashion upon which it has been too hastily erected.

To combine the intensity and vigour of the Western theological quest with an unflinching sensitivity to the specifically Indian form of man's universal questions is indeed a daunting assignment. Yet nothing less will do. The new journal promises to provide a valuable challenge to re-emphasize the Indian orientation of our task. For that challenge and that promise all engaged in theological study in India will be grateful.