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THE CHURCHMAN

January, 1937.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

"The Churchman."

WITH the New Year begins another volume of THE CHURCHMAN and we wish to express our thanks to our readers for their support in the past. THE CHURCHMAN has for a very long period served the useful purpose of representing Evangelical principles among the large number of magazines that are issued regularly. We can look back upon many years of service to the cause and we believe that we have performed a duty to the Church in giving opportunity to members of the Evangelical School to present their views to a large band of readers. There are many problems of great importance to the future welfare of the Church to be considered in the near future and Evangelical churchpeople must be prepared to give them careful consideration. In order to enlarge the circle of our readers a reduction has been made in the price of each number and in future the cost of the Magazine will be one shilling quarterly. This reduction in price has necessitated a small reduction in size of each issue, but we shall retain all the features which have been of service to our readers in the past, and we look for the continuance of their support.

Problems of the Day.

We suppose that every age has had its own special problems and the people have thought that their difficulties have been greater than those of any preceding time. In our time we seem to be faced with problems on every side that are so complex that they are defying solution by the ablest minds of the day. The continuance of the civil war in Spain is not merely a disaster to that distressed land, but it threatens at any moment to embroil the nations of the world in a terrible conflict. Europe appears to be developing into an armed camp representing two distinct ideologies—to use a word that has become fashionable of late. On the one side we have the totalitarian states represented by the Fascism of Italy and the Nazism of Germany. On the other side is the Communism represented by Soviet Russia. All of these by the assertion of their principles seem to leave little place for the teaching of Christ and the practice of His true religion. Their intervention in Spain, although it has

been officially unrecognised and has been through volunteers who have gone to the assistance of the parties whose success was desired, has aroused bitter resentments and it may lead at any time to further complications. Affairs in Palestine have quieted down since the cessation of the strike and the civil disturbances. The Royal Commission is sitting, but we fear that it will have a difficult task in endeavouring to reconcile the conflicting claims of the Jews and the Arabs.

King George VI.

Our Empire has passed through a critical time during the last months in the events that led up to the abdication of King Edward VIII. We need not say anything more here than that there was deep sorrow that a Sovereign whose reign began with so great promise decided to relinquish the high position to which he was called and for which he seemed in so many ways so well fitted. The higher the office which a man has to fill the greater is his need of the Grace of God to enable him to carry out its duties. In King George VI we have a sovereign who, we believe, will devote himself wholeheartedly to the interests of the people of the Empire, and will do all in his power to promote its prosperity and happiness. The Monarchy is one of the most stable institutions in the Empire as long as the Sovereign is inspired by the ideals which are represented by his Coronation. Surrounded by wise counsellors King George will be able to maintain the traditions which were set by his father, at whose death the prestige of the Crown was greater perhaps than at any other period in our history.

Our Contributors.

The discussion on the Report of the Archbishops' Commission on Church and State will occupy the attention of Churchpeople for some time to come. We have therefore given in this issue of *THE CHURCHMAN* a paper by the Rev. W. Leonard B. Caley which was read before the recent Conference of Old Students of St. John's Hall, Highbury. Next year the Fourth Centenary of the Reformation will be celebrated. The celebration is being specially associated with the setting up of the English Bible in the parish churches throughout the country in the year 1538. The present year is being used as a time of preparation for the commemoration and we therefore have thought it well to devote several articles to the Bible. Dr. Whitley writes on "Tudor Bibles," Dr. Jackson on the transmission of the Bible and Mr. Cobb on "The Place of the Bible." Spain has attracted so much attention of late that it is not inappropriate to give an account of a prominent Spanish Reformer, Manuel Matamoros, by Dr. Bate, whose interest in the Spanish Reformed Church is well known. Evangelism is receiving considerable attention at present and we hope that an article on "The Assets of the Evangelist," by the Rev. R. B. Lloyd, will be read with interest in this connection. The Rev. J. Stafford Wright discusses a biblical point of interest in regard to the date of the books of Ezra and Nehemiah.