

BLACKFRIARS

(With which is incorporated *The Catholic Review*)

Literary Communications should be addressed to THE EDITOR, BLACKFRIARS, OXFORD. Telephone 3607. The Editor cannot be responsible for the loss of MSS. submitted. No MSS. will be returned unless accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope. seller, price One Shilling, in America Twenty-five Cents. *Yearly*.

Single copies of BLACKFRIARS may be obtained through any book-subscription, Twelve Shillings, in America Three Dollars, may be sent to The Rolls House Publishing Co., Ltd., Rolls House, 2 Breams Buildings, London, E.C.4.

Communications in regard to *Advertisements* should be addressed to The Rolls House Publishing Co., Ltd., 2 Breams Buildings, London, E.C.4. Telephone Holborn 5708, 5709, 0603. Telegrams 'Publmedi, London.'

Vol. XIV, No. 186

September 1935

EDITORIAL

A CATHOLIC MIND is the vital need of the world to-day. Action of any sort is directed by a mind of some sort, and if Catholic Action is to be a reality it must be the outcome of a Catholic mind, a mind, that is, informed with Catholic Truth. Such a mind can best be developed in organized groups of men and women eager to learn and selfless in their devotion to a common cause. The recent Congress of the Third Order of St. Dominic, held in Oxford, provided an encouraging example of the willingness of lay Catholics to develop such a corporate unity, governed by a single apprehension of objective truth covering the whole of human life. The Dominican Tertiaries form an organized unit, consisting of men and women of all classes and conditions, able and ready to take a part, as required by the Hierarchy, in the Apostolate of Catholic Action; and there are other organized units, too numerous to mention, capable of similar activity. It is not a question of specialized knowledge or expert training; the primary and essential need for all of them is what we have called the "Catholic mind," a mind which has absorbed Catholic Truth at its source. This truth is Catholic in more than the technically religious sense (though it is necessarily based on that); it is Catholic in the sense of covering everything with which the human mind can come

into contact; and it is found to be not a theory but a person, the Person of the Divine Word through Whom all things were made. In this Divine Prototype of creation is alone to be found the norm of truth in respect of all things made; in Him alone, therefore, is to be found the guarantee of that Catholic mind of which we speak, and the humanity of the Incarnate Word is the appointed way. *Let this mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus*, and truth is assured in every branch of life and human activity.

BLACKFRIARS, dedicated to the cause of Catholic Truth, must deal with a wide range of apparently heterogeneous subjects. Amongst others, questions of Art and Beauty have frequently been expounded, and this was in no sense a mere sop to the dilettante. Art, which is productive of beauty, and beauty, which is an attribute of the creature and therefore of the Creator, assume a vital importance in relation to Catholic truth. For this reason we call attention especially to two articles in the present number. Mr. Gill (who is, incidentally, a Dominican Tertiary) rightly speaks as one having authority upon man's creative faculty of beauty. This Godlike faculty in man develops with the development of his mind, and develops along true lines only when it is inspired by the beauty it is capable of producing. That appreciation, properly understood, is an appreciation of God Himself, through the medium of the Incarnate Word. This is the profound notion that forms the theme of the article *Passage through Beauty*, by Mr. Bernard Kelly, and is perhaps the most valuable contribution to the question of aesthetics yet published in BLACKFRIARS. It will more than repay the thought that it undoubtedly demands. Other articles in this number will be found to support the expositions of these two masters, and should help materially towards the formation of that Catholic mind which is the inspiration of Catholic Action.

EDITOR.

We beg to call attention to a lecture, entitled L'Intelligence et la Contemplation, to be given in French by the Rev. Père Garrigou-Lagrange, O.P., at The Lecture Hall, King's Bench Walk, Temple, E.C., on Wednesday, September 11, at 8 p.m. Père Garrigou-Lagrange is Professor of Theology in the Collegio Angelico, Rome, and is one of the greatest modern authorities on Mystical Theology.