

EDITORIAL

THIS issue of the review appears with a new cover. The purpose of the change is not merely to make a more striking impression upon the chance observer, though we hope that the new style will attract more readers. There is in the new design a change of emphasis. Hitherto 'Life of the Spirit' has often suggested, to a stranger to its contents, a specialised review dealing with purely individual prayer and religious experience—it was even mistaken for a journal concerned with 'the Psychic'. In English 'the Spirit' is too often contrasted with the normal, everyday existence of men; so that it became important to insist that the Spirit can and should influence and indeed change every fibre of a man's physical being and every action of his normal life. It would be a mistake to emphasise 'Life' without the article, for, as may be seen from the weekly paper of that name, that suggests a review of life as it is to be found. The emphasis on '*The Life*' is intended to suggest life as it ought to be made, the ideal for man to aim at; and 'The Life' in that sense is undoubtedly 'The Life of the Spirit'. The Spirit should dominate the whole man; in this context it is not an extract, nor yet a distillation. It is the power of Christ that can penetrate and transform all things. It can be seen at its most effective on the mount of transfiguration, when it changes even Christ's clothes so that they shine with the light and the life of the Spirit.

The articles that follow are the papers that were read at the Life of the Spirit Conference held in September, 1952. The main subject was the Common Life of Christians which provides a focus today for nearly every spiritual problem, on the private and individual level as well as on the social. The papers need no further introduction. The discussion of the papers raised a great many valuable points which can not all be even mentioned in 'EXTRACTS'; but they will have their effect on the future development of the review. A letter came to the Editor some weeks after the Conference, which not only fitted neatly into the theme of the articles, but suggested the first of a series of 'POINTS OF VIEW'.