

EDITORIAL

THE editorship of THE LIFE OF THE SPIRIT is being taken over this month by Fr Laurence Bright, O.P. The editorial address will be *Blackfriars, Cambridge*, from now on. The first issue edited by Fr Laurence will appear in January, and the retiring editor's last number will be next month's. He would like to thank his contributors for their co-operation and the patience with which they have borne his chivvying. He has personally found his two years of editing a valuable and enjoyable experience, from which he hopes that readers have not suffered too severely.

We have two good causes which we wish to recommend to the prayers and purses of our readers. The first is C.R.I., Children's Relief International, a voluntary organization to help deprived children of any nationality, by building homes in each of which twelve children are cared for in a family atmosphere. The first home is being opened this year at Shooters Hill for twelve boys from D.P. camps in Germany, Austria and Italy. C.R.I. say that they intend to specialize in the little devils who give infinite trouble. Each child, it is estimated, will cost about £250 a year. For information about how you can help write to *Mr Bruce Duncan, 4 Harvey Road, Cambridge*.

Our second good cause is a work of piety which should make an appeal to the whole Christian world. It is the completion of a basilica on the Mount of Olives, on the site where Constantine built a great church in honour of our Lord's ascension and return in glory, which was known in antiquity as the Eleona. The new basilica, planned to reproduce the original one as closely as possible, was begun as long ago as 1920, but was interrupted by the war and subsequent upheavals in Palestine. It is dedicated to the Sacred Heart and to the cause of spreading the peace of Christ among the nations. To help the work an Association of the Friends of Eleona was established in 1956. For further information write to its headquarters at *13 rue de la Dalbade, Toulouse, France*.

The theme which we wish to suggest to readers' thoughtful consideration in this number is *Revelation*. It is of the essence of Christianity that it is a revealed religion. The importance of revelation is not simply that we are told things by God which we

could not have found out ourselves, but that a personal relationship is established between God and men. God talks to us, and we talk to him. Revelation is the divine overtures in establishing friendship between God and men, concord between heaven and earth. One of the subsequent articles tells us something of God's infinite patience and tact in the approaches he has made to men in the course of history. The story of his revelation is contained in the Bible; no means were too trivial or petty for God to use, provided they were successful in establishing *contact* between himself and his people, until the whole process was completed, the friendship sealed, by the incarnation. Another article is concerned with man's answer to God's revelation—that is, with faith. The third article, on spiritual direction, may be said to deal with the arduous task of keeping up the contact, of making the revelation-faith conversation between God and us a lifelong and living affair, that will reach its apogee in the face-to-face colloquy of heaven.



WAYS MANY AND VARIOUS

ROLAND POTTER, O.P.

God who spoke to our forefathers, through the prophets, in ways many and various, has at last, in these days, spoken to us through his Son . . .
(Hebr. i, 1).

WITH these impressive words begins the epistle to the Hebrews, and we are taught that God it is who commands all history, and God who reveals himself by speaking through all the sacred history of Israel as also to the new Israel of God or body of Christ. The stress in the text is first of all on God who has all the initiative, and who brings about a continuity in old and new testament covenants because the same loving God brought all essential history to its real conclusion in the revelation of a Saviour who is Lord of all.