

BLACKFRIARS

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CHRISTIAN LIFE IN THE WORLD TO-DAY

UNDER this title a series of meetings of all denominations was held at Rugby from May 9th to 16th, 1943. The present number of BLACKFRIARS contains the addresses of the Catholic speakers. It was an outstanding example of co-operation among Christians, and the Catholic contribution besides its intrinsic value in showing the fundamental Christian principles underlying our daily life, also provides a model for similar united activities ; for we may well hope that this example will encourage Catholics to take an increasing part in such meetings. The contributors here are well-known Catholic writers, and it is a particular privilege for BLACKFRIARS to count His Grace the Archbishop of Birmingham among them. But it must be made clear that the articles represent their spoken as distinct from their written words, several of the addresses being set on paper for the

first time by a stenographer at the meeting. If in consequence they lack the considered finish of the pen, they preserve something of the life and spontaneity of the tongue, particularly as the audience were large and enthusiastic. We regret the absence of Mr. Richard O'Sullivan's address and of Fr. Agnellus Andrew's shorter but very lively speech which brought the week to a close. The latter was almost wholly concerned with the special and important occasion of the Rugby week, the former we hope to include in a future issue of BLACKFRIARS.

The SUPPLEMENT appears also as a pamphlet, published by the Dacre Press, price Sixpence.

THE EFFECT OF THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION ON CIVILISATION¹

EVERYTHING Christian begins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, and ends in glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost. And the essential point in all religious recovery is a realisation that God is all in all, and that our heart, our strength and our faith in the future come from that controlling absorbing, essential fact of the reality of God.

When Eric Gill, the sculptor, was asked to make a sculpture for the League of Nations at Geneva, he went to the beginning of Genesis for his text, and he made a design like that of Michaelangelo in the Sistine Chapel in Rome—God touching man to life; 'In the image of God He made man'—and above it he put a line from a religious poet of the last century, Gerard Hopkins: 'Thou mastering me, God.' Eric Gill, the artist, thought he could choose no better text for the League of Nations; the League should be made to realise that without the inspiration of that essential text and that line from the poet, their councils would be in vain, as, alas, so far in vain they have proved.

The old and true Christian attitude is that God is the measure of all things; God is the measure of man. This so-called humanitarian age which is now reaching its close has said that man is the measure of all things; and, alas, unless Christian ideals can prevent it, we are moving into an age when the State will shape the measure of all things, and, if I may say so, that measure will be a mess.

¹ The substance of a speech given at the inaugural meeting of the Rugby Christian Life Week, May 9th, 1943