

EDITORIAL

A MONTHLY like THE LIFE OF THE SPIRIT, we are glad to say, does not have to concern itself with up-to-the-minute 'actuality', as the French would call it. Indeed we are fated, if ever we have to comment on events, to be at least two months out of date. This number indeed, and the next also which will be a continuation of it, may be said to be twelve months out of date, since it was twelve months ago that the Pope announced his intention of summoning a Council, and let it be understood that one of its concerns would be the consideration of possible means to heal the schism between Catholics and Orthodox, east and west. Since then there has been much talk and newspaper gossip and rumour, there have been reports and denials, announcements and cancellations, obscure semi-official pronouncements and even darker inspired articles, not a little misunderstanding (we suspect) and even more bad guessing. All this leaves us, the general public, not a tittle the wiser about the preparations that are really going on for the Council in this respect; and there is no reason why we should expect that it should. Ecclesiastical diplomacy and theological discussion are best carried on in confidence and out of the limelight. But it would be most unfortunate if we let all this buzzing and counter-buzzing about what is not our business discourage us from taking an interest in what is our business. It is our business as Catholics to inform ourselves about Orthodox points of view; to be aware of and to welcome well-informed Orthodox appreciation of our position; above all it is our business to keep the healing of schism in the forefront of our prayers. If these two numbers of THE LIFE OF THE SPIRIT help our readers to do these things, that is all the 'actuality' that we lay claim to or desire.
