

OBITER

THE DISAPPEARANCE OF *Temps Present* last year was in the eyes of very many a disaster for France. It had succeeded to an earlier casualty, *Sept*, which is still remembered for its fearless Christian commentary on affairs during the difficult years before Munich. A new weekly, *A Present*, has come to life, which, while it claims no continuity with *Temps Present*, has many familiar names among its supporters—Stanislas Fumet, Louis Terrenoire, Paul Claudel, Gabriel Marcel and many more. Its aim is to be the review of 'the revolution that is yet to come'. Three years of the Fourth Republic have disappointed many hopes, and *A Present* boldly looks to the return to power of de Gaulle as 'an opportunity for a renewal of political life to which he alone can give the necessary scope and effectiveness'.

The first number (15th February) carries a prominent headline, 'The Risk of de Gaulle', and a careful reading of M. Terrenoire's article reveals no authoritarian hopes, which would indeed be unlikely in a former editor of *l'Aube*. The disillusionment of the last few months has caused a thorough examination of conscience among those many Frenchmen who still believe in the primacy of moral values in public life, and it is no part of an English critic's function to doubt the sincerity of M. Fumet and his friends in looking for 'a christian and humanist' solution to the trials of France. But *A Present* is not merely a political organ, and excellent musical and literary criticism (there is a first-rate account of Duparc) justifies its claims to provide a platform for humane comment on cultural affairs no less than on the more urgent crisis of political life.

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FROM FRANCE too comes the news of a new French translation of the Bible, under the direction of the Ecole Biblique of Jerusalem. The committee of direction includes such names as PP. de Vaux and Benoit, as well as MM. Etienne Gilson and Gabriel Marcel. The translation will appear in parts, and it is hoped that publication will begin this year. The Editions du Cerf are the agents, and a specimen page indicates careful typography and an intelligible arrangement. The footnotes seem particularly useful, for the general reader as well as for the professed biblical scholar. Thus David's testament to Solomon (1 Kings, 2),

'in which David entrusts to Solomon the execution of his personal vendettas was shocking to many in the past (as the versions make clear) and may well shock us nowadays. But the moral climate of the Old Testament must be borne in mind, with its ideas about blood-vengeance and the lasting effect of curses. One must remem-

ber, too, that these rigorous measures are not confined to the person of David alone but affect the fate of his dynasty'.

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TENSION IN THE ANGLICAN CHURCH is the subject of an article by Père Hamer, O.P., in the *Nouvelle Revue Théologique* of Louvain for January. Seeing in the South Indian Church a crucial test for the Anglican Church, the author assumes that a favourable recognition of the South Indian ministry by the Lambeth Conference this year would mean that the position of Anglo-catholics would become untenable in the Church of England. 'They would be compelled to break with their brethren and to live as rebels in a Church which had lost its legitimacy, or even to take a step further and turn their eyes towards Rome'.

The same issue applies the not-so-fashionable existentialist label to St Augustine in an article by Père Solignac, S.J., and has an interesting theological study of the notion of Obedience to the Church by Père de Bovis.

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AMONG NEW PERIODICALS we are glad to see *Linacre*, the quarterly of the United Hospitals Catholic Society (annual subscription 2s. 6d., from Peter Healy, London Hospital Medical School, E.1.) and *Hospitaller*, a quarterly devoted to the work of the Brothers of St John of God (annual subscription 1s. 4d., from the Editor, Scorton Road, Richmond, Yorkshire). *Linacre* has in its first number articles by such authorities as Dr Mary Cardwell, the Revd. J. C. Heenan and Fr Thomas Gilby. It is with no wish to disparage the eminent that one hopes that future numbers may include contributions by medical students themselves. *Hospitaller* will do much to make known the heroic work of the Hospitaller Order of St John of God, whose Brothers for four hundred years have, as the Editor remarks, 'been so occupied with their task of nursing the sick that they have had neither time nor inclination to put in writing, for the benefit of posterity, a detailed account of their doings'. At a time when so much is heard of National Health Services, it is good to be reminded of the hidden work of healing carried by religious without state help or acknowledgment. It was this great work of charity that Mgr Ronald Knox, in a recent broadcast, singled out as the greatest contribution of Catholicism to Victorian England. It was a timely tribute.

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THE SOUTHWARK RECORD for February commemorates the sixty years of priestly work of Archbishop Amigo. Tributes from Cardinal Griffin and Douglas Woodruff, as well as two excellent photographs, put on record the achievement of a bishop whose name has been synonymous with the Catholic history of England for nearly half a century.

THE FIRST NATIONAL CONFERENCE of Parish Councils was held in London last October, and the report of its proceedings is a reminder of the value of local loyalties in national life.

DIE NEUE ORDNUNG, in its latest number, has a valuable article by P. Mannes Koster, O.P., on 'Symbol and Sacrament' and an appeal for 'Christian Sociology as a theological discipline' by Werner Schöllgen.

FRANKFURTER HEFTE (January) includes Professor Arnold Toynbee among its contributors, and draws apprehensive conclusions in an editorial comment on the centenary of 1848.

THE REGISTER, continuing in monthly form the work of the *Weekly Review* (21 Essex Street, W.C.2, 30s. per annum), has on its cover the device: 'The Freedom, the Greatness and the Welfare of England must be restored'. The first number has articles on 'The Landowner's Point of View' and 'Property and Personality', and the Health Act is carefully analysed from the standpoint of individual liberty.

CAHIERS DU DROIT (March) is devoted to 'Charity in the Social Order'.

A.L.D.A.T.E.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Sir,

I am home on leave for a short time during my year's work in Berlin with the Friends' Relief Service. Just before I left Germany I got to know a Dominican Tertiary who has lost everything and is in great need. She asked me if while I was in England I could get her a missal and a Dominican Breviary. I am wondering if anyone could provide her with these. If so, her address is:

Fräulein Katherina Laessig, Berlin-Charlottenburg, Königsburg 52^{um}. I should like to ask too if there is any means by which help could be sent to a Catholic priest in Dresden whom I got to know while he was in Berlin a short time ago. The number of people in his care is three times as great as before the war because of the influx of refugees. They are attached to seven different centres in the Dresden area. Apart from a woman secretary, he has been struggling alone with this task and now she is seriously ill with T.B.

Everyone is in desperate need of food and clothes. From my own experience of work in Berlin I know something of what that means and conditions are infinitely worse in the Russian Zone.

When Dr Baum told me about his people's needs he seemed to be suffering from an overwhelming sense of being alone in the struggle and I felt that if help could come from outside it would mean a deep spiritual strengthening for both priest and people, more important even than the material relief.

Parcels could be sent direct to: Herr Dr Ludwig Baum, Dresden A 46, Meusslitzer str. 108, at the usual postal rates (max. 7lbs. food, 22lbs. clothes).—Yours, MARY JEWELL (Friends' Relief Service).