

Editorial

From October, the two Dominican reviews, *BLACKFRIARS* and *LIFE OF THE SPIRIT*, are to be amalgamated in one larger review, *NEW BLACKFRIARS*.

When *LIFE OF THE SPIRIT* began nearly twenty years ago, first as a supplement to *BLACKFRIARS*, then as an independent review, it was to fill the need felt by English Catholics for a review of spirituality, founded in part on the sanity of St Thomas and in part on the native English traditions of ascetic and mystical theology. This role it ably fulfilled, but in the course of its development this need became less as Catholicism in England underwent the influence of the renewal of spiritual and liturgical studies on the continent, the 'return to sources' which brought about so many of the changes of view-point, and of the new currents of thought that are being given definitive form for our times in the sessions of the Second Vatican Council.

These new insights into the nature of theology and the role of the Church in its diaspora situation in the contemporary world—which *LIFE OF THE SPIRIT* in recent years has done so much to make known and acceptable to English Catholics—have at the same time brought it close again to the original position of *BLACKFRIARS*; readers of *BLACKFRIARS* will not need to be reminded that its aim has always been to explore what is best in the achievements of contemporary culture and bring to bear on its problems a Christian judgment formed by a living theology. For this reason it has been decided that the two reviews should be re-united. We hope that the readers of both reviews will welcome and support *NEW BLACKFRIARS*, in which this re-union will find expression.