

MELITA THEOLOGICA

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EDITORIAL

THE first issue of *Melita Theologica* met the warm welcome of all sections of our clergy. We received encouraging letters, and favourable comments appeared in the press. We assure our readers that their suggestions together with their constructive criticism are fully appreciated.

We regret to note, however, that only a few of the Universities abroad to which we have sent a copy of our review, have so far acknowledged our act. This may be due to the fact that our copies arrived perhaps too late, when the summer holidays had already started. Otherwise, to say the least, we cannot fail to blame them for a grave breach of the laws of etiquette. So we hope that this time they will show better their appreciation of our review and will not fail to send us a copy of theirs.

OUR UNIVERSITY

A short time ago the Royal University of Malta has been granted "a measure of autonomy in the sense recommended by the Inter-University Council for Higher Education in the Colonies". The importance of this step cannot be overemphasized; perhaps at long last our University will not be any more enmeshed in the political turmoils which are bound to return with Responsible Government. The chorus of protests in the political press on several pretexts is understandable in so far as the University has ceased to be the Cinderella of political partisanship. An educational institution, meant to be a place of intellectual and moral training is too sacred to be profaned by any attempt to distort the mind of its inmates. Under such circumstances a University may turn out to be but an instrument of an all-powerful state bent on subjugating for its own sinister purpose all the intellectual forces of the country as in pre-war Germany, Italy and especially Russia, where educational institutions are serving not Truth, but the State.

In the preamble to the Bill "a measure of autonomy" is the definition of this "new management and control of the Univer-

sity". It is quite obvious that the State must have a say in the matter for funds are being provided by the people who have a right to know how this money is being spent. Hence the State reserved the right to nominate the Vice-Chancellor and a number of members of the Council representing the Legislative Assembly and other interested parties, thus creating a delicate balance of power, which is easily tipped over in favour of State interests. On this score we cannot agree with the contention in the political press that the University is totally outside the sphere of State management. This semi-independence has nothing to do with the full responsible government of the great Universities of the Middle Ages, which were powerful enough to defend human freedom against the ever encroaching State.

The machinery is there; its working now depends on the engineers and the means provided. Means are being provided, but we fear that they cannot cope yet adequately with all the needs of a modern University. We hope that the engineers will rise up to create the soul of the University, that is, to enliven themselves and the students with the great ideal of service to Truth and hence to our neighbours and country. We are sorry to state that that motive force is still unfortunately lacking.

HISTORY OF THE CHURCH IN MALTA

"We will continue to harp on this point until we see our hopes realised." So we wrote in our last issue. Again our congratulations go to the Professor of Church History for having chosen a subject of historical interest referring to the history of our own Faculty, for his inaugural lecture on October 1st. We understand that the Professor is keen on having a group of young men working under his direction; it is an excellent idea deserving all our unreserved moral support. It seems that two or three students in the Academic Course of Theology are taking history as their line of special study; they are, however, finding it difficult to make head or tail of the *archivum*, etc., at the Public Library. It is hoped that matters will be made good now that Dom Maurus Inguanez O.S.B., the Librarian of Monte Cassino, is at the helm.

A SORT OF CORRESPONDENCE CLUB

Since the birth of our Association, it has been our intention "to promote intercourse between this institution and other similar

bodies in Malta and abroad". This we hope would be partly achieved in the near future if the main Catholic Universities will condescend to send us their reviews. But to attain more effectively our aim we must see that a sort of correspondence club is created between our members and those of similar bodies whether in Malta or abroad. Thus, through personal contact, we may better appreciate the ways and means of other associations. But, above all, we shall feel more closely related to other aspirants of that noblest of calls: the priesthood, who, though their race and language may be different, yet they possess in common with us those peculiar traits that show in a prominent way the universality of the Catholic Church.

F A R E W E L L !

Before my editorship of "MELITA THEOLOGICA" comes to an end owing to my departure to the University of Louvain, I wish to extend my warmest thanks to all the members of the R.U.S.T.A. for the generous help they have given me in my dual capacity of President and Editor. I confess that I am handing over not without regret, because the short life of our Association has meant a lot for me. It has, in fact, strengthened our bonds of fraternal love and intellectual yearnings not only during our life as theological students, but also during these first years of priesthood. I am happy, however, that our association is now like a fully fledged bird ready and able to take the flight. So I strongly hope that when I return back to our dear Country I shall be satisfied with the activities and the achievements of the R.U.S.T.A. during the next scholastic year. Au revoir!

REV. R. CIRILLO.

AD ALTIORA

We warmly congratulate the Very Rev. Prof. A. Bonnici, B.A., B.L.Can., D.D., H.E.L., Professor of Church History at the Royal University of Malta, on his elevation to the dignity of Monsignor Coadjutor of the Rev. Chapter of the Metropolitan Cathedral of Malta. *Ad altiora!*