

MELITA THEOLOGICA

Vol. I

No. 4

EDITORIAL

NEW VICE-CHANCELLOR

THE Graduation ceremony held on the 4th October was marked with great enthusiasm on the part of the student-body. Students from all the academical courses assembled in great numbers to greet Professor J. Manchè B.Sc., M.D., on the day of his assumption of the Vice-Chancellorship of our Alma Mater. It was too evident that the appointment of the new Rector Magnificus had inspired the academic and student-body with full confidence and hope for the future of our University. The hopes of University students are certainly not unfounded, for in Professor Manchè we have a Rector who is conscious of his high position and is "determined to safeguard the traditional privileges and liberties of our Alma Mater". But, what is more, with his appointment we are fully confident that the rights of the student-body will be duly respected and their efforts towards the prestige of the University will be in all ways encouraged.

It is meet, therefore, that this issue of "Melita Theologica" will open with a note of congratulation for the new Rector Magnificus. Our Association, in unison with the other student-bodies, fully appreciates the keen interest which he has always taken in University students and can pride itself on having already experienced its encouraging effect. In fact, the new Rector Magnificus who has been in office for not more than two months has promised our Association his full support and help, and has made some very valuable suggestions for the better attainment of its ends. Hence, we have high hopes that with Prof. Manchè who is keenly interested in theological studies and who happens to have been for two years a student in the Preparatory Course for Theology, the activities of the R.U.S.T.A. will be marked with greater success.

FIRST DEAN OF OUR FACULTY

A further encouragement to our Association is the appointment of the first Dean of the Faculty of Theology. Professor

C. Bonnici B.L.Can., D.D., who has been elected Dean of our Faculty in accordance with the New Constitution of our Alma Mater as established in force of Ordinance XXXIII of 1947, is an old friend of the R.U.S.T.A. He was one of the professors who from the first gave us their full support in establishing the Association and who succeeded in winning its official recognition as a University Students' Body by the General Council of our Alma Mater. Besides, he has always been a regular contributor to our review, "Melita Theologica". We trust that Professor Bonnici in his capacity as Dean of our Faculty will continue to interest himself in the Association and help us realise its aims.

REFERENCE LIBRARY

The primary aim of our Association is to promote and encourage research work on scientific lines in all branches of theology. To realise this aim we have always emphasized the need of an up-to-date library, and now we can pride ourselves of a considerable collection of reference works and periodicals. True it is, our library is not as yet so fully equipped to meet the requirements of scientific research work; however, it is being gradually and steadily built up, thanks to the grants made to our Alma Mater by the Inter University Council for Higher Education in the Colonies. We trust that within a few years our library will be furnished with the essential scientific apparatus for research work.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL LIST

The importance of up-to-date reviews can never be over-emphasized; it is only through these publications that we can keep in touch with contemporary thought and appreciate the rapid strides made in all branches of theology. In view of all this we are introducing a new item in this issue of "Melita Theologica", namely a Bibliographical List of all articles appearing in reviews available in our Island. We intend to make this list, drawn up by members of our Association, a permanent item in our Review. We are certain that this will be of practical help to theological students and to our readers in general. Our thanks go to Rev. George Zammit, B.D., Hon. Treasurer of our Association, through whose initiative this new item is being introduced.

AN APPEAL

We avail ourselves of this occasion to make an appeal to all those interested in the study of theology to cooperate with us in the realisation of the aims of the Association. We would appreciate a greater participation in our activities, especially in the monthly lectures held during the academic year. We have decided that the subjects of these lectures be of a more or less general interest though of a strictly theological import. We trust that in so doing we shall attain the ends of the Association and at the same time promote a greater interest in theology in all University students and in the intelligentsia in general.

FAREWELL TO OUTGOING PRESIDENT

Before ending this editorial note we wish, in the name of all the members of the R.U.S.T.A., to bid farewell to our outgoing President. We sincerely thank him for his untiring efforts for the furtherance of the prestige of our Association. However, though his term of office as President has expired, we are confident that, as he himself clearly stated in his Address at the last Annual General Meeting, his "interest in its progress and concern in its affairs will continue to grow rather than fade away."

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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