

## Being and Becoming

FOR THE PAST forty years, THE NEW SCHOLASTICISM has enjoyed a constant growth and influence commensurate with its role as the Journal of the American Catholic Philosophical Association. From modest beginnings, the Journal and the Association have developed together, and although the titles of both implied initially a modest outlook and venture, the ensuing years have considerably broadened and deepened the outlook of both the Association and its official publication. As far as the Association is concerned, its membership has reached out to many who are not American or Catholic or even primarily philosophical in the usual professional sense of the term. THE NEW SCHOLASTICISM, in turn, not only has branched out similarly, but has also promoted publication of articles and reviews by representatives of the philosophical enterprise at large, and not only by members of the Association itself.

The present editors, in assuming office, must first discharge a great obligation in acknowledging with considerable appreciation what our predecessors have done to make this Journal the outstanding scholarly publication it has become. The first issue appeared in January, 1927, edited by Edward A. Pace and James H. Ryan, who remained editors for the first ten years of the magazine's existence and who did much to establish the format and policy of the publication. In 1936, John K. Ryan and Francis A. Walsh were added as editors, with the latter becoming general editor for the year 1937. Ignatius Smith, O. P., took over as acting editor in 1938, and served as appointed editor from 1938 until the end of 1947. Vincent Smith became editor in 1948, continuing as editor until the present time. We cannot be too emphatic in expressing our gratitude for the work our predecessors have so ably accom-

plished, and if we cite Professor Vincent Smith in particular, it is not only because he is the immediate predecessor who served during a period of eighteen highly significant post-war years of widespread philosophical activity, but particularly because he exhibited such outstanding ability in guiding and developing the publication through this complex and interesting period, and accordingly passes on to us, with much helpful counsel and guidance, a well-established and vital magazine of scholarly merit. We hope to maintain this high level of achievement. We must express, also, our deep gratitude and appreciation for the strong vote of confidence given us by the Executive Council of the Association; we shall constantly seek to merit the confidence thus bestowed upon us.

Rather than announce proposals and promises for the future, we prefer to let the coming issues manifest our hopes and plans for the future. Our over-all policy is simply to continue the high standard of achievement the journal already enjoys while being open to modifications and changes designed to improve the publication wherever and whenever possible. We shall seek the valuable aid and advice of our fine board of consulting editors. In addition, we hope for the active interest and cooperation of all members of the Association and, indeed, of anyone engaged in the philosophical enterprise in this country or abroad. The times ahead promise to be interesting and exciting; our primary effort will be to reflect the coming periods of activity in a viable and comprehensive philosophical publication.

JOHN A. OESTERLE

*Editor*

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