

Editorial

In presenting this first issue of *Science and Christian Belief* we wish to explain the proposed scope and policy of the journal.

Our scope is intended to include any topic that bears on the discussions about the relationship of science and faith, including the history and philosophy of science. As the final article in this first issue shows, that will include the relationship of science to non-Christian outlooks as well as to the varieties of Christian belief. Sometimes we shall need simply to evaluate developments in science and technology or in theology to see what their implications are.

Our aim is not only to inform the readers of the trends and fresh ideas in these areas. That is very important and a necessary first stage if the journal is to be useful. The articles in this issue by Professor Russell and Dr. Houghton contribute in significant ways in this area. But they, as well as the other writers, aim to go further and to provide a constructive critique from the stand point of an orthodox Christian position that accepts the Bible rather than any church tradition, as the final arbiter in matters of faith and conduct.

More than either information or critique, however, we aim to help those who want to develop a more adequate Christian approach to the scientific enterprise, to its implications for our day, and to those varieties of religious belief that offer an understanding of how these things should be viewed within their overall perspective. There is great need for, and great opportunity for, the establishment and dissemination of a soundly based Christian view of science, of scientific knowledge, its relationship to theological knowledge, and of what it means to be a Christian in a scientific community. Ethical questions that arise in science and technology will therefore be included.

In this issue we include a hitherto unpublished paper by the late Professor Donald M. MacKay. Thereby we acknowledge that his thinking contributed enormously to the work of both Christians in Science (when it was still called the Research Scientists' Christian Fellowship) and the Victoria Institute. A recent collection of his writings has just been published under the title, 'The Open Mind and Other Essays' and is reviewed later in this issue.

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We welcome suggestions of topics needing attention, offers to write or review for us and will be glad to have our attention drawn to books needing review. In the future we hope to include correspondence.

The Editors.