

Editorial

Hans Küng's *Council and Reunion*, reviewed in this issue, has been received with justifiable enthusiasm on its appearance in English. 'If ever there was a "must" for every educated Catholic it is this', says the notice of it in a recent number of the *Clergy Review*. Yet the ecumenism, or dialogue between Christian churches, with which it deals, is primarily a pursuit for theologians having special capacity for such work, not a matter for ordinary Catholics. Primarily, yet not exclusively: it is this which emerges from Fr Küng's book and makes it worth drawing to the attention of the readers of a review such as this. What he has shown is that if there is to be that renewal of life within the Church which, under God, may eventually bring about reunion, it can only be made effectual by a similar renewal in the individual life of every single member of the Church. It is the Church as a whole which, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, develops and grows: the lead must indeed come from above, but it is we who have to prepare ourselves to respond. The ecumenical movement has its impact on the life of faith of every Catholic, calling for a renewal within the heart, fed by sound theological thought finding its source in scripture and its expression in the liturgy. It should not merely be the bishops, not merely the theologians, who are getting ready for the coming Council: it must be ourselves.