

which the confident claims of a secular 'welfare' can in the end betray.

This issue of **BLACKFRIARS** brings together the specialised knowledge of professional social workers, and is primarily intended to provide some indication of the evidence which must determine a Christian opinion on the Social Services today. The Welfare State is an imperfect solution to the problems of an industrial civilisation. But it is one that exists, and a wholly negative attitude of distrust will only assist the enemies of human freedom. The need is imperative for the co-operation of those who have a consistent view of man's nature and his real needs, who may use the instruments the State provides to assist man's freedom and not his serfdom. And Charity remains, the Church's principal means of revealing for all to see what are the roots of her mission: the love of God communicated to all his children, so that to meet another's need is to meet Christ himself, and that is a need which will last until the world ends.

In the letter already quoted, the Pope provides the necessary reminder that the Christian can never rely on the merely temporal solutions of man's problems in society. The Catholic sociologist will indeed be foremost in his demand for social justice, and the Pope insists that 'Charity must always take account of the Justice to be established and must not content itself with palliatives'. But the teaching of Christ has given a new dimension to the estate of man, for 'in the Christian view of a society in which wealth is more justly distributed, there will always be room for renunciation and suffering, the inevitable—but fruitful—inheritorship that is ours here below, an inheritance which in vain will a materialistic conception of life or the illusion of perfect justice eliminate from the human situation'.

NOTICE

The October issue of **BLACKFRIARS** will contain articles on 'The Apologetic Problem Today' by Columba Ryan, O.P., and Henry St John, O.P. There will also be review-articles on Newman and Lord Acton.