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CHURCH AND STATE

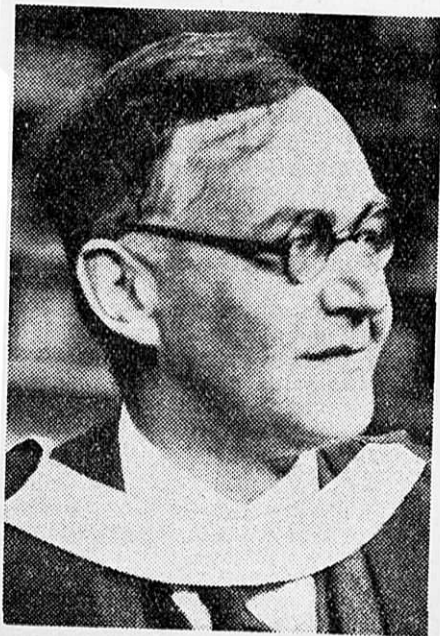
CHURCH AND STATE. By Karl Barth
(Translated by G. Ronald Howe).

Student Christian Movement: 2/6.

The relationship of Church and State constitutes a perennial problem in so-called Christian countries. At times a working arrangement is arrived at, and there is peace, but every now and again, as to-day in various parts of the world, the battle has to be fought out again.

It is that relationship of Church and State which is the subject matter of these brief but compact and crowded pages. Karl Barth gives an exposition—no modern can do it better—of the scattered and sporadic New Testament teaching on this fateful theme. He goes down to the heart of the matter as he discusses such issues as Church and State confronting one another; what is the essence of the State, what is the significance of the State for the Church, and what is the Service due to the State from the Church.

In its original German form it has, one understands, created considerable controversy on the Continent. Here it will certainly be carefully studied. Of many suggestive conclusions two may be noted. Karl Barth is perfectly clear in his own mind that military service is one of the self-evident duties a Christian owes to the State; he is clear at the same time that a State has no right to try to strengthen its authority by demanding from its citizens "sentiments and reactions dominated by a particular view imposed by the State from without."



Karl Barth.