

In Memoriam

Lester L. Doniger

1909-1971

LESTER L. DONIGER, founder and publisher of *PULPIT DIGEST* and *PASTORAL PSYCHOLOGY*, died on April 27, 1971, after a long illness.

PULPIT DIGEST, begun in 1936, was Mr. Doniger's first publishing venture. Following a youthful career as a reporter for the New York "World," where his assignments included covering the utterances of the great preachers of the day, Mr. Doniger conceived the idea of a professional journal for ministers, with an emphasis on preaching. For the magazine's first decade he served as editor as well as publisher.

Reviews designed to keep the clergy abreast of important new books on preaching and other aspects of the ministry were a feature of *PULPIT DIGEST* from its inception, and out of this column grew a "book service" which made these books available to ministers at low cost. Book clubs in the area of religion became one of Mr. Doniger's chief interests, and in 1954 his various clubs were merged with The Religious Book Club, the pioneer in the field, forming Book Club Guild.

Responding to a growing desire among clergymen to utilize the insights of psychology in their pastoral ministry, Mr. Doniger founded *PASTORAL PSYCHOLOGY* in 1949. His brother, Simon Doniger, Ph.D., served as editor for that journal's first two decades, with Seward Hiltner,



presently of Princeton Theological Seminary, acting as Pastoral Consultant.

When Book Club Guild merged with Meredith Corporation in 1965, Mr. Doniger became director of the Manhasset, New York, branch of the firm, continuing his association with the two journals and the book clubs. He remained as a consultant after his retirement in 1969, until poor health curtailed his activities.

For many years a leader in civic and educational affairs, Lester Doniger was a man whose life was characterized by wisdom, integrity, and generosity of spirit. His passing is mourned by all who knew and worked with him. It is our hope that the publication of these journals will serve as a continuing monument to the principles by which he lived and to his constant desire to be of service to the human community.