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gegen solche hat der Christ gewisse von Gott ihm auferlegte Pflichten der Liebe. Aber so dalb irgendeine Pflicht gegen den ausdrücklichen Willen Gottes verstößt, hört sie eben auf, Pflicht zu sein. Gottesdienst geht vor Menschendienst. Das wird oft vergessen. Wie mancher schließt sich aus Liebe zu seiner Frau einer falschen Kirchengemeinschaft anl Wie mancher stimmt um der Partei willen für ganz unsähige Kandidaten! Wie mancher besitzwortet aus falschem Patriotismus einen offenbar ungerechten Krieg! Oder man verlangt vom Pastor, daß er um des Wachstums der Gemeinde willen laz werde in der Kirchenzucht, im Besprädis von Ungläubigen, in der Aufnahme von Gliedern. Da heißt es bedenken, daß Christus unbedingten Gehorsam von seinen Rachsolgern sordert. Das ist schwer, dem Fleisch unmöglich. Aber Christus schenkt die Kraft, wenn er sagt: "Folge mir nach!" und weist auf die hohe Ehre hin: "Berkündige das Reich Gottes!" Wie willig sollten wir ihm Geshorsam leisten!

3.

B. 61. Wiederum einer, der JEsu seine Nachfolge andietet, aber zubor noch etwas anderes tun will. Dem gibt JEsus zu bedenken: B. 62. Ob nun der Herzenskündiger sah, daß dieser Mann in besonderer Gesahr stand, oder ob er nur im allgemeinen warnen wollte, diese Wahrsheit gilt allen Christen. Man kann unmöglich pflügen, wenn man nicht stets vorausschaut auf das Ziel. Ber beständig hinter sich schaut, taugt nicht zum Pflügen. Daher nicht wie Lots Weid zurücksauen, 1 Mos. 19, 26; nicht wie die Kinder Israel sich nach den Fleischöpen Kayptens sehnen, 2 Mos. 16, 3; nicht wie Demas die Welt liebgewinnen, 2 Tim. 4, 10, sondern alles andere aus den Augen verlieren, aussehen allein auf den ausgesahrenen JEsum, Hebr. 12, 2—17. Das ersordert ein stetes Kreuzigen des Fleisches. — Aber der, dem wir nachsolgen, gibt uns auch dazu die Kraft. Im Vertrauen auf ihn, in dem wir Gerechtigkeit und Stärke haben, wollen wir ihm nachsolgen.

Theological Observer. — Rirchlich-Reitgeschichtliches.

I. Amerika.

The New Paganism and the Scriptural Attitude toward It.—
This is the tile of an important series of articles in the Christian Monitor
in which the well-known apologetic writer John Horsch, famous for his
invaluable book Modern Religious Liberalism, flays Modernism as it appears in its latest representatives. Every paragraph in the series is of
such importance that we should like to publish it in its entirety; but since
space forbids this, we shall at least present the paragraph on "Modernist
Definitions of God" in order that the readers may know just how pernicious
this thing called Modernism is. Mr. Horsch writes: "Not only Unitarian
theologians have denied the existence of a personal God, but the same is
true of some of the prominent liberals in other Protestant churches,

Prof. Jesse H. Holmes of Swarthmore College, a liberal Quaker, says: 'God means to us just that unifying influence which makes men long for a brotherly world.' (Christian Century, March 1, 1928.) Again, the same writer says: 'The element of our mysterious inner life which constantly tends toward the good is what we mean by God.' (Crozer Quarterly, April, 1931, p. 209.) Walter Marshall Horton, Professor of Systematic Theology in the Graduate School of Theology of Oberlin College, wrote in an article on 'The Importance of God' (Christian Century, April 18, 1931; note in the following quotation that God is spoken of in the plural and as having no personal existence): 'It is power that men seek when they seek God.... A deity is a power; and the deities that will survive in the struggle for existence are those which have the greatest power to inspire and invigorate their devotees and raise them to the highest level of triumphant and abundant life.'

"In his book Theism and the Modern Mood the same writer (speaking now of God in the singular) defines Him as 'a vast cosmic drift, or trend, toward harmony, fellowship and mutual aid.' (P. 117.) Shailer Mathews in his book The Atonement and the Social Process defines God (speaking of Him in the plural) as 'those elements of the cosmic Activity with which personal relations are possible.' (P. 37.) In his most recent book, The Growth of the Idea of God, he speaks of God again in the plural as 'the personality producing (evolutionary) activities of the universe.' Again, in the same book he defines God as 'a conception or an idea,' namely, as 'our conception of certain cosmic activities.'

"A certain liberal writer conceives of God as "the infinite centers of energy which are akin to ourselves," and another, as "the forces resident in the world which effect the evolutionary process.' Again, a liberal writer, quoted by Sockman in Morals of To-morrow, p. 25, defines divinity as "the sum total of the laws of nature.' Dr. Henry Nelson Wieman, Professor of Christian Theology (Christian Doctrine) in the same institution as Shailer Mathews, in his book The Issues of Life, published by the Methodist Book Concern, denies expressly the personality of God and defines Him as an 'order of existence and possibility.' In an article in the Crozer Quarterly he consistently refers to God as 'it.'"

Commenting on this "new paganism," John Horseh writes: "God is spoken of as an influence, a cosmic drift, or trend, an idea, an order of existence, or in the plural as cosmic activities, as activities of the universe, as deities which exist only in the human imagination and of which some of the fittest will survive in the struggle for existence, as the sum total of the laws of nature. The question forces itself to one's attention, Can a man pour out his soul in worship to such a god and expect from it help for his deepest needs? Is not prayer to such a god as unreasonable and as unworthy of thinking people as it is to bow down to the sun or to idols of wood and stone? And is it not a question of the utmost importance, What will be the effect of such teaching on American Protestantism and the American people in general?" As proved by these "definitions of God," Modernism is nothing else than crude pantheism.

Yet this revived pantheism is aggressive. John Horsch, referring to Professor Albert John Murphy of Columbia University, in his book Education for World-mindedness, published by the Methodist Book Concern (note how frequently this book concern is quoted as an exponent of liberalistic books!), says: "To-day we think of the missionary process as the cooperative endeavor of idealists of all nations to produce, through the motive of a social religion, an ennobled and friendly human society of varied and mutually contributing cultures." No wonder, then, that (as a circular on mission-work distributed from the headquarters of the Student Voluntary Movement states) "the International Missionary Council works to reinterpret the Christian message." The Christian message must be reinterpreted in the categories of pagan pantheism.

J. T. M.

Authority in Religion. - In Christianity To-day (August) Wm. Bittle Wells reviews the question of authority in religion and warns his readers against forsaking the objective divine authority of Scripture. Quoting a modernistic preacher, he shows that Modernism acknowledges no other authority in religion than human experience. The paragraph quoted reads: "In religion, as in all fields of thought and endeavor, the final authority is the experience of the individual in his search for truth. . . . This point of view is not so startling, after all, because an external authority has just as much authority as we individually are disposed to give to it. . . . That is to say, the final appeal is within and not without." Commenting on this, Mr. Wells declares that "logic is at a low ebb," since this principle does not even hold in philosophy, as Alfred Weber, in perfect agreement with Hume and Kant, holds. This philosopher writes: "Since experience always furnishes only a limited number of cases, it cannot yield necessity and universality. Hence a judgment a posteriori, i. c., one based solely upon experience, cannot constitute scientific knowledge. In order to be necessary or scientific a judgment must rest on a rational basis; it must be rooted in reason as well as in observation; it must be a judgment a priori."

The article closes with the solemn appeal: "It is written—this is the great dictum of God, through Jesus Christ, that must thunder down the ages, spreading dismay among the ranks of those who are compromising with the world in its efforts, led by that same Satan who failed with Jesus, to discredit the authority of the Holy Scriptures and to place puny man in the awful place of God's throne."

J. T. M.

Primitive Religion: Evidence that It Was Monotheistic.—
Under this heading Rev. G. P. Pierson, D. D., missionary to Japan for forty
years, in *Christianity To-day* gathers some evidence to show that pagan
religion in the early era of the human race was monotheistic. It was so
in Egypt, in Mesopotamia, in Persia, Greece, and in Rome, as also in India,
as distinct traces in the ancient law codes and prayer-books prove. It was
so in China, in Korea, and in Japan, pagan fields with which the missionary
is personally acquainted.

Of China he writes: "The Emperor Yao (2337—2255 B.C. [?]) built a temple to God. His successor 'offered the customary sacrifices to God,' which implies that such sacrifices had been offered for generations before. A thousand five hundred years before the time of Confucius, who lived about 500 B.C., the word Shangti (God) is used in the oldest classics. He is the supreme God of heaven, the supreme Ruler, one and indivisible, incapable of change. He has no equal and can have no second. He rules absolutely and solely over all in heaven above and earth beneath. He is

tolerant and just. By His decrees, kings are made and rulers execute judgment. This from *The Book of History* and *The Odes...*. But from the age of Confucius, instead of the personal Shangti, the term Tien, heaven, comes into use with its pantheistic implication."

Of Korea: "According to the oldest Korean record in primeval ages there was a divine being named Wanin, who was the creator (Chaiso). There is no mention of spirit-worship at that time; such worship was introduced at least a thousand years later. The purest religious notion Korea possesses to-day is Hananim (Heaven Master, Lord of Heaven) a being entirely unconnected with either of the imported cults, Confucianism and Buddhism, and far removed from the worship of evil spirits that have terrified and prostrated the people down through the centuries."

Of Japan: "The first deity mentioned in the Kojiki, Japan's oldest record, is Ame-no-mi-naka-mushi-no-kami, which means literally the god, the Lord of the center of heaven. It is claimed by a Japanese scholar that naka does not imply localization in the center of heaven, but that all things depend on him; further, that he is both immanent and transcendent. He is without beginning or end, increase or decrease. No shrine has ever been erected to him. From the days before the coming of Confucianism or Buddhism there prevailed, however, animism and local divinities, and legion would be too low a figure by which to designate the number of later deities through the centuries of decadence.

Of the Ainu people of Japan: "The Ainu people of Japan are the remnant of what was originally a great prehistoric race. They have no literature, only tradition. Dr. Batchelor, who has rendered this people unique and distinguished service in a half century of devoted missionary work, says that they were originally monotheistic. Indeed, their word for God, Pasui Kamni, the weighty God, who covers or overshadows, is the name used still for God by the missionaries."

In conclusion the author writes: "Nothing in the history of our race is so heart-breaking as the spectacle of man with his weakened reason, — weak at its best, — with only himself and his environment as fields of search, after age-long, world-wide, despairing failures still groping amid his crumbling temples and ancestral tombs for the secret of it all, dying unsatisfied, bequeathing his doubts to his children. 'Creative thinking,' apart from Revelation, has not been and cannot be a success. Fallen man as a religion-maker has been, and must be, a failure. True religion is made in heaven.

"We conclude, then, that Asia is a demonstration of appalling magnitude of the folly and wickedness of rejecting an available revelation and choosing 'reason.' What we know of heaven and all we know of earth witness to the disaster of such a course.

"The books of Asia prove what the Supreme Book of Asia [the Bible—Ep.] confirms, the necessary disaster involved in rejecting Revelation and appealing, with weakened faculties, to nature, experience, imagination—all under the blight of sin.

"The men of Asia will rise up in the Judgment against our generation; for they seek and have not the knowledge of God, the quickening of the Spirit, the divine Teacher, while we seem ready to surrender these and start all over again the sad experiment of the unhappy religion-makers of Asia."

J. T. M.

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A Secular Paper's Views on "Sloth in the Pulpit." — According to the Biblical Review the New York Sun not long ago preached a sermon to preachers on this subject, and here are some excerpts: —

"Some churches, it is asserted, pay less attention to the spiritual qualities of a prospective pastor than to his worldly qualifications for

getting results and making a good appearance.

"Others complain, in the words of one layman, that 'not a new thought has been presented in that pulpit in twenty years.'

"There are ministers who cease to study as soon as they have accumulated stocks of sermons they can use over and over again as they drift about from place to place. Of these it is said that they find themselves sorely puzzled to understand why hearers have tired of their homilies, to discover themselves among those who are driven to 'burden their friends with complaints and excuses — often plausible, but not often honest — and with requests for assistance in securing new charges.'

"There are weak churches and strong churches, weak preachers and strong preachers, to-day, as there were in many previous ages.

"This, nevertheless, is a restless age and an impatient.

"There never was a time when laziness was in greater disesteem.

"Moreover, the pastor who to-day undertakes to lead a flock must be prepared to meet severe tests of a kind often spared to his predecessors in other centuries.

"The printing-press and radio have brought to him greater mental competition, as they have given to his hearers better measuring wands with which to ascertain for themselves how he ranks intellectually and culturally. He needs courage, an alert mind, sound judgment, sure moral and spiritual insight, if he intends to go into the pulpit Sunday after Sunday and invite the comparisons his congregation is bound to make."

Calvin and the Inerrancy of the Scriptures. - Readers of this journal have repeatedly been made acquainted with the attempts of certain modern scholars to prove that Luther did not believe the Bible to be infallible, but was willing to grant that it contained errors. Whenever passages of Luther that were quoted to substantiate this view were closely examined, it was found that they did not support the charge which these negative critics based on them. It is interesting to note that John Calvin's attitude toward the Scriptures has been similarly attacked. An article in Bibliotheca Sacra, written by Dr. Charles E. Edwards, deals with the question of Calvin's position in this respect. Dr. Edwards quotes authorities who made a deep study of Calvin's writings and who state that he taught the verbal inspiration of the Scriptures. The writer's authorities point out that, whenever Calvin does speak of errors in the Bible, he refers not to the original writers, but to copyists. Matt. 27, 9 is one of the passages referred to, concerning which Calvin says: "How the name Jeremiah crept in, I confess that I do not know, nor do I anxiously trouble myself; certainly, that the name Jeremiah has been put by an error for Zechariah, the thing itself shows, for nothing like this is read in Jeremiah." This statement of Calvin's is explained thus by Dr. Moore, one of the scholars quoted: "It is utterly unwarranted to make Calvin here acknowledge an error in the original text of Scripture. He speaks of the name Jeremiah as having crept in (obrepscrit); and this naturally suggests the idea of a corruption of the original text of Scripture. He holds that the name Jeremiah is put by error for Zechariah, but he does not say that the error was committed by the evangelist. The curt expression 'put by error' rather leads us to think of an error of transcription. It is most unreasonable to hold that Calvin here supposes the admitted error to attach to the original text. The more we study this passage, which is the chief one relied on and the one most frequently appealed to in support of the allegation that Calvin did not hold the doctrine of the inerrancy of Scripture, the more assured we are that it does not serve the purpose for which it is adduced." To all who read this article from the pen of Dr. Edwards it will be clear that, while Calvin taught very serious errors, the doctrine of a fallible Bible was not among them.

A.

Two Seminaries United. — The press reports that, beginning with the academic year 1931–32, Andover Theological Seminary will reopen and will be united with the Newton Theological Seminary. Andover is a Congregationalist school and was founded in 1807 largely to counteract the influence of Harvard, which had become very liberal; and Newton is a Baptist school, founded in 1825. The two schools have joined their titles, faculty, libraries, and administration and will be known as the Andover-Newton Theological School. We are told that a court order released Andover from the "legal and doctrinal restrictions of the so-called Andover creed." It is evident that all restrictions which pious donors may impose in order to prevent that endowments which they give are ever used to propagate doctrines which they abhor, are in vain if succeeding generations do not adhere to the faith of the fathers. The merger of the two schools is strong evidence, if evidence were needed, of the ultraunionistic atmosphere which is now prevailing in America.

Hinduism Spreading in America. - According to one of our exchanges a book recently appeared entitled Hinduism Invades America, by Dr. Wendell Thomas, in which one can see that there is close resemblance between American Liberalism and the religion of the Hindu. The reviewer says of this religion: "Its real name is Dharma; for Hinduism is only a title bestowed by Westerners, and it means the universal progressive principle of every man - an idea suggestive of much that we hear expressed by religious leaders to-day. Missionaries in India have long known of the likeness between the reform movement there, which is called Brahma Samaj, and American Unitarianism, as acknowledged by adherents of each; but in this country the former is particularly represented by the Vedanta centers. We are glad these are dwindling in numbers and influence. The Yogoda Society is a more Americanized type of Hinduism, making certain concessions to our ways of thought, adopting every method of aggressive propaganda, and seeking affiliation with liberal churches. Still more dangerous and a subject for warning is the little-recognized kinship of older American writers and present religious movements with Hinduism. Emerson, Thoreau, and other Transcendentalists studied and popularized its teachings, as likewise did Walt Whitman and more recently Ralph Waldo Trine. Mrs. Eddy quoted from its sacred Upanishad scriptures in her earlier editions of Science and Health, which have now

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been suppressed by the church publishers. New Thought, Unity, Theosophy, and Bahaism, as well as Christian Science use some of its doctrines and enjoy favorable consideration from Modernists." It is the old story—when people become wiser than the Scriptures, they turn to strange superstitions.

A.

"What Is Unionism?" - Our article bearing this caption in the August issue of the Concordia Theological Monthly has called forth a reply from Rev. D. R. Honn, pastor of the American Lutheran church at Fort Recovery, O. Reference had been made to his church in the following statement: "At Fort Recovery, O., four local churches - Trinity Lutheran, the Methodist Episcopal, the Church of Christ, and the Congregational Christian - conduct a united series of community meetings as Sunday evening services during the winter and spring months." Rev. Honn writes: "At no time did we conduct a united series of services. There was absolutely no pulpit or altar fellowship practised. . . . Here are the facts in the case. Last fall the churches here decided they would not have services in each church each Sunday evening. (We do not have regular Sunday evening services.) They decided there would be services in only one church. And these services to be held in each church in succession. They asked us if we would take our turn, which brought services to our church about once in five weeks. We decided to take our turn, but stipulated that these services were in no wise to be considered union services, nor should there be any interchange of pulpits or any fellowship in Holy Communion. This was agreed upon and was carried out. These services were not strictly church services, but were more of an informal nature." We have made reply to Rev. Honn, to this effect: "No claim was made in our article that there was actual participation of the Reformed preachers in the services conducted at Fort Recovery. Your statement, however, bears out the description of those services as a 'united series of meetings.' The series was arranged by various religious bodies in Fort Recovery." While we should not apply the term unionistic service to a church service conducted under the arrangement described, the arrangement itself certainly is of a unionistic character. A Lutheran congregation agrees with the Reformed congregations to give the community a series of Sunday evening services during the winter and spring months. Unless fraternal relations are recognized, how can such an arrangement be entered into? One of the chief purposes of our article was to point out the fallacies involved in the standpoint of those who limit unionism to the actual joining of Lutheran and non-Lutheran preachers in the same service. We believe that an arrangement which by its mutual character overrides the existing difference in doctrine must be classified in the same category. As we wrote our correspondent: "I believe that just such community arrangements as cited in my article serve to break down the Lutheran consciousness of our people. They are part of the community which was invited to worship one Sunday in the Lutheran church and the next Sunday in the Methodist." In other words, not only actual participation in public worship with those of another faith, but any arrangement which implies a fraternal recognition of those differing from us in their publica doctrina is unionism and TH. G. should be avoided.

II. Ausland.

über ben Einfluß bes hollänbischen Sektenwesens schreibt die "Theos logische Rundschau": "Durch die berstärkte Auslandwerbung der russischen Gottesleugner haben die gleichgerichteten Bestrebungen in Holland neuen Antried erfahren. Der Atheismus als "Glaubensbekenntnis" hat in Holland seit den Tagen Multatulis Wurzel geschlagen. Die zahlreichen Freibenkers bereinigungen sind in verschiedenen Verbänden zusammengefaßt, von denen "De Dageraad" (Die Morgenröte) der an Mitgliedern stätste ist. Der Versband veranstaltet regelmäßige Werbevorträge, gibt eine Zeitschrift heraus und trat bei den letzten Wahlen site die zweite Kammer sogar als politische Wählergruppe auf. Der von ihr aufgestellte Kandidat bracht es freilich nicht zu der erforderlichen Anzahl von Stimmen. Die Tätigkeit des Dageraad-Verbandes wird durch das atheistische Wochenblatt "De niewe Cultur" und durch "De Vrijdenker" (Auflage 2,168) ergänzt.

"Austritte aus der Kirche sind in Holland an der Tagesordnung. Bon Beit zu Beit nehmen solche Austritte aussehenerregende Formen an, nämslich wenn es ein beamteter Geistlicher ist, der seinem Amt und seinem Glauben Lebewohl sagt. Das jüngste Ereignis dieser Art war der Kirchensaustritt des Pfarrers J. Bröger in Gouda, der inzwischen eine rührige Predigertätigkeit für ein Christentum selbsteigner Färbung angenommen hat. Dies ist der herkömmliche Weg für das Entstehen der vielen abgesplitterten Glaubensgemeinschaften, die für das religiöse Leben unter den holländischen Protestanten kennzeichnend sind. Auf den Ginzeichnungslisten für die letzte holländische Bolkszählung waren wohl zwei Dutzend Kirchen und Religionszirkel vermerkt, deren Witgliedschaft der holländische Staatsbürger ansgeben konnte.

"Den Freimaurern berwandt durch ihr Bekenntnis zu werktätiger Rächstenliebe sind die holländischen Woodbrookers, die ihr Zentrum in dem Orichen Barchem haben. Hier bersammeln sie sich alljährlich zu Tagungen und Lehrkursen, an denen namentlich auch jugendliche Kreise teilnehmen. Für 1931 ist in Barchem eine erste internationale Zusammenkunft der deutsschen, englischen und holländischen Woodbrookers anderaumt.

"überaus zahlreich find in Solland die Theofophen, fotvohl Steinericher wie Befanticher Richtung, bertreten. Rubolf Steiner, ber gu Lebzeiten berichiedentlich in Solland weilte, bat bier in Dr. Zijmans van Emmichhoven Die für ben Bau bes einen ebenfo beredten wie beliebten Nachfolger. Goethenaums in Dornach (und bann für beffen Bieberaufbau) erforders lichen Gelber find in besonders reichem Make aus Holland zusammengefloffen. Auch Annie Befant, die fast jeden Sommer nach Solland kommt, kann fich nicht über mangelnde Gaftfreunbichaft ber Sollander beklagen. Ihr und ihrem Schützling Krischnamurti wurde burch Baron Pallandt bas Landgut Gerbe bei Ommen zur Berfügung gestellt, wo bisher bas Commerlager bes Sternenordens abgehalten wurde. Bekanntlich haben fich bie Theosophische Genossenschaft (Sit Boint Loma, California, Grunderin Catherine Tinglet) und die Internationale Theosophische Bereinigung (Sit Abhar, Englisch-Indien, Grunderin Annie Befant) gu einer Arbeitsgemeinfcaft zusammengeschlossen, ein Bersöhnungsschritt, der namentlich in Holland beifällig aufgenommen wurde. Das Generalsetretariat ber theosophischen Bereinigungen in Solland wird heute burch Dr. 3. 3. van der Leeuw mahr-

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genommen, der in Shdneh, Australien, der Freien Natholischen Kirche nahesstand, auf seinem jehigen Posten aber namentlich für eine reinliche Scheidung zwischen Theosophen und Okkultismus eisert. Ban-der Leeuw hat viele Bücher geschrieben und tritt als Sprecher auch auf den Lagungen der Beissheitsschule in Darmstadt auf.

"Der Offultisuns schliehlich ist in Holland ein anderer Sammelgebanke für viele organisierte und nichtorganisierte religiöse Auhenseiter. Die Beschäftigung mit spiritistischen Problemen ist bermaßen verbreitet; daß die katholische Kirche dagegen einen richtigen Feldzüg begonnen hat, der ins bessen wenig ausrichtete. Conan Dohle, der kurz vor seinem Tode mehrere Wochen in Holland weilte, hat hier den Grund für den organisatorischen Zusammenschluß aller Anhänger gelegt, wie dieser in England vereits seit langem vollzogen wurde. Die englischen Spiritisten bilden bekanntlich mit ihren 600 "Kirchen" und ihren vielen Tausenden von Anhängern bereits eine innerpolitische Machtgruppe. Sie haben den ersten Weltlongreß der Spiritisten für dieses Jahr nach dem Hagenseitertums ein fruchtbarer Boden ist."

Die unionistifche Stellung ber Brübergemeinbe. In einer Mitteilung im "Evangelischen Deutschland" lefen wir: "In herrnhut tagt seit bem 28. Mai gum erstenmale wieder feit 1914 bie Generalfynode ber Brüderunität. An der Tagung, die insgesamt etwa drei Bochen dauert, nehmen als vollberechtigte Mitglieder gewählte Abgeordnete aus Deutschland, ber Tichechoflowatei, Grogbritannien, Amerita, Beftindien, Guriname, Ritas ragua und Giibafrifa fotvie eine Angahl von Inhabern leitender Stellen auf Grund ihrer Amtsbefugnis teil. Bor allem galten die Beratungen ber Neuordnung ber Berfaffung. Ferner berhandelte man über endgültige Buweifung ber verschiedenen Miffionsfelber an die einzelnen Unitätsprobingen. Damit tritt an Die Stelle ber bisberigen Bentralifierung bes Diffionss wefens ber Brüdergemeine eine Dezentralifation, bei ber aber die Ginheit bes gefamten Miffionswerks gewahrt bleibt. Befonders bon ameritanifder Seite war außerbem die Frage zur Besprechung gestellt, two und in welcher Beife in den einzelnen Ländern die Annäherung an glaubensverwandte Rirchengemeinschaften geforbert werben tonne. Befanntlich ift in Deutsch= land eine Berbindung mit den Landestirchen durch den Anschluß der Brüderunität an den Deutschen Evangelischen Kirchenbund schon seit längerem hergeftellt." 3. T. M.

Die englischen Freikirchen sorbern die Entstaatlichung der anglikanischen Kirche. Der größte Teil der englischen Bedölkerung bekennt sich noch heute zur Mitgliedschaft in der anglikanischen Staatskirche, die nach dem englischen Geset vorzügliche Privilegien genießt. Damit sind die Freikirchen unzufrieden. Wir lesen darüber im "Christlichen Apologeten", wie folgt: "Auf der Jahresversammlung des Bundes der ebangelischen Freikirchen in England, die kürzlich stattfand, wurde eine Resolution angenommen, in der die Vertreter der zu diesem Bund gehörenden Freikirchen zum Ausdruck bringen, daß die Zeit gekommen sei, wo die anglikanische Kirche auf ühre Stellung als Staatskirche sowie auf die staatslichen Unterstützungen verzichten sollte. Nach Auffassung der Freikirchen würde ein solcher Schritt die geistliche Kraftwirkung des christlichen Glaubens bedeutend vermehren, dem

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Prinzip der religiösen Freiheit und Gleichberechtigung, wosür die Freikichen eintreten, förderlich sein und einige der gegenwärtigen hindernisse, die der Pssege der christlichen Gemeinschaft unter den Kirchen im Weg stehen, bes seitigen.

Staat und Religion in Spanien. Die republikanifche Regierung in Spanien wird endlich auch den evangelischen Kirchen etwas mehr Freiheit berschaffen. Dem "Lutherischen Berold" entnehmen wir bas Folgende: "Die probisorische Regierung der Republik hat eine Berordnung über bie Rultusfreiheit erlaffen, die folgendes bestimmt: ,1. Niemand, auch nicht ber im Staatsbienft Stehende, ift berpflichtet, fein Religionsbekenntnis ans zugeben. Staatsbeamte und Militärs bürfen keinerlei Nachforschungen über das Glaubensbekenntnis ihrer Untergebenen anstellen. 2. Riemand, auch nicht ber im Staatsbienft Stehenbe, ift zur Teilnahme an religiofen Beres monien, Feften ufw. gezwungen. 3. Alle Befenntniffe burfen öffentlich und privat ihren Rult ausüben, folveit fie nicht gegen bie Gefete ber öffents lidjen Ordnung berftogen.' Damit ift ber außere Rahmen bes Berhaltniffes bon Staatsgewalt und Religion gegeben, allerdings nicht mehr als ein Rahmen. — Die Spannung zwischen ber katholischen Kirche und bem Staat befteht weiter, obwohl die Ausschreitungen sich nicht wiederholt haben. Bartnadig erhalten fich die Gerüchte, daß eine Abreife bes Runtius, bas heißt, ein Abbruch ber Beziehungen zwischen Batifan und Regierung, beborfteht." 3. T. M.

Doctores discriminis legis et evangelii. Unter bieser überschrift gibt "Schrift und Bekenntnis" ein zusammenkassendes Urteil über unsere beiden entschlafenen Lehrer D. F. Bente und D. F. Pieder. Wir Iesen da u. a.: "Jedenkalls waren die beiden Heingegangenen . . . und leuchtende Borbilder, das wirklich Wichtige wichtig zu nehmen. Sie waren durch Gottes Enade ohne ihr Verdienst doctores discriminis legis et evangelii. Sie haben viel geschrieben. Aber immer war die unermüdliche, unersschrödene Anwendung von Geseh und Evangelium in rechter Unterscheis dung das Große. In pluribus unum! Non multa, sed multum."

In begug auf D. Bieber urteilt ber Schreiber: "Bir erinnern uns feiner Borlefung bon ihm, in ber wir nicht bas Gefühl hatten: Gott hat mit uns gerebet. Das war bas Große. Wir gingen mit ber Emps findung aus bem Borfaal: Gott hat und Gunder feinen Ernft merten laffen; Gott aber hat mit feiner Gnabe, mit ber Conne ber Gerechtigfeit, Chrifto, mit ber Rechtfertigung nicht aus ben Werken, sondern aus Unas ben, um Christi willen, burch ben Glauben, und überschwenglich getröftet. Bir möchten fogar ben Ausbruck doctor angelieus wagen in bem Sinn, bag uns bei feiner Beife, Dogmatit zu lehren, trot ber meifterhaften begrifflichen Marheit, ja gerade vermöge berfelben, etwas von der Rabe bes himmels aufging, ber fich manchmal auch auf bem Antlit bes nuchs tern lutherischen Mannes zu spiegeln schien. Und so ift auch D. Biepers große gebrudte Dogmatit eine ,driftliche', in ber bas Berg bes Chriftens tums gewaltig fclägt, nämlich bie rechte Unterscheidung bon Gefet und Ebangelium." Diefe "rechte Unterscheidung" bei D. Bieper hatte ihren Grund in ber gewaltigen Schriftbebife, Die ihm immer bor Augen fomebte: El rig lalet, de loyia Deov, 1 Betr. 4, 11.

Alls der Unterzeichnete sein Amt als Dogmatiker antrat, sagte ihm der Heimgegangene: "Wenn Sie bei Ihrem ganzen Unterricht diesen Spruch im Gedächtnis behalten, so lehren Sie Dogmatik recht." Das sagte er ganz aus seiner eigenen Ersahrung heraus. I. E. R.

On the Barthian School of Theology.—In the October issue of the *Theological Forum*, published by the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America, we find an interesting article by John E. Groenli on Karl Barth and the ideas which he and his school promulgate and defend. The summary in which the outstanding points of the "Barthian" theology are briefly stated will interest our readers.

"I. Man is nothing, God is all. An emphasis on the transcendence of God and the sinfulness of man, who is absolutely helpless, unable to save himself. Calvin's Soli Deo Gloria is often used by Barth. This is of course a reaction against the apotheosizing of man which has so characterized the latter part of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth century.

"2. A strong emphasis on Scripture as the Word of God, a healthy reaction against negative criticism. The Word is revelation. Man is a viator, a wanderer in a far country; the Word of God comes to him as a call from the homeland.

"3. Jesus is the God-man. 'In the name Jesus Christ two worlds meet and touch . . . the point of intersection of the two planes is Jesus of Nazareth . . . the Jesus of history, born of David according to the flesh.' The chimera of Arianism hovers in the back of our Gothic minds, and it has found outlets in Socinianism, Unitarianism, Modernism, etc., and the Barthian emphasis on the deity of Christ must be hailed with joy. However, from a Lutheran standpoint the Barthian Christology falls short in important points, as it is genuinely Calvinistic and fails to grasp the significance of the Lutheran teaching about the communicatio idiomatum, especially the genus maiestaticum, but opposes the doctrine.

"4. Renewed emphasis on faith. It is a thing to be thankful for that the reformers' emphasis on faith again is heard in Europe. With faith restored to its central position in a theological system, we may be inclined to agree with Count Keyserling when he says that Barth has saved Protestantism in Germany. There are, however, certain peculiarities in the Barthian conception of faith, which will be referred to later.

"5. Closely connected with the emphasis on faith is the Barthian view of psychology. In the words of Dr. Keller, 'the dialectic theology has liberated theology from history and psychology; as a reaction it has placed the emphasis upon the Word of God which is given us by faith.' In his *Erlebnis, Erkenntnis und Glaube*, Brunner is very outspoken against psychology, or rather, psychology of religion, and he claims to be in agreement with Luther on this score.

"6. The eschatological view. This is peculiar and will be referred to later. A prophetic view is generally eschatological, and the Barthian view in this respect probably represents a reaction against the overemphasis on history which some schools of thought have been guilty of."

It is worthy of note that our writer emphasizes that Barth, while speaking of Luther with admiration, is nevertheless a true Calvinist. Furthermore, what Barth says about the Scriptures sounds very good, but it must be remembered, as Mr. Groenli points out, that this school does not believe in verbal inspiration, but rather in "pneumatio" interpretation of the Bible. Critical methods are freely applied to the text. With respect to faith the Barthian system does not teach the confident traist which is one of the chief things in Luther's writings, says Groenk. "Barth sometimes seems to identify faith with obedience." The views of this school on eschatology, according to Groenli, often appear contradictory. There does not seem to be a new order of things to which these people direct the hopes of Christians when they speak of the fulfilment of God's purposes with respect to men. They seem in their eschatology to refer to what is going on now and not to have in mind "new heavens and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness." Mr. Groenli finds the chief value of the Barthian theology, not in the system which it submits, but "in the inspiration it gives to the preaching of the Word."

Die beutsche Sheologensprache. Wir Deutschameritaner find, wie es scheint, nicht die einzigen, die darüber Mage führen, daß so viele beutschländische Theologen kein gemeinverständliches Deutsch reden können ober Auch echte Deutsche beklagen biese Manier. In einem auf ber Rirchlichen Konferenz zu Leipzig gehaltenen, in ber "Alla, Ev.=Luth, Kirchen= zeitung" (7. August 1931) veröffentlichten Vortrag heißt-es: "Und wenn wir heute mit danfbarer Freude bor unferm Geren ben Durchbruch reformatorifder Glaubenserkenntnis erleben bürfen, bann wünschen wir folder jungen, für die Kirche hoffnungsvollen Theologie nur auch die Gabe der Einfalt bes Denkens und ber Sprache. Der Glaube berträgt wohl eine gehobene Sprache, aber feine gewundene und erfünftelte; benn wer befonders flug und gebildet und in absonderlichen Formen reden will, fällt leicht aus der Lauterkeit Christi heraus. Und es ist eine merkwürdige Tatsache, daß auch unsere Bfarrer alsbald anfangen, wie in Bungen zu reden, sobald eine besondere theologische Formulierung und Fachsprache modern wird und Auffeben erregt. Die Sprache ber Schrift erscheint uns ftets als die beste Lehrmeisterin auch wider eine fomplizierte Theologie. Wir möchten hineinhorchen in das Wort und das Wort felbst zu Worte tommen laffen." Einfalt bes Dentens und ber Spracel Mancher ift ja von Natur mit einer unflaren, unbeholfenen Ausbruckweise Aber gar oft rührt auch die unklare, geschraubte, verklaufulierte, rätselhafte Rebe baber, daß man nicht einfältig ber Schrift nachbenken und nachreden will und die eigenen Gedanken doch als Schriftgedanken barbieten möchte. Es tväre zu wünschen, daß die gegenwärtige Luthers renaissance eine wirkliche Rückfehr zu Luther anbahnen möchte, zu Luthers Glaubenseinfalt und einfältiger Rebe. Œ.

"Liturgischer Kunstausbau, Lichtträgerinnen" usw. Darin suchen manche das Heil der Kirche. Der obengenannte Vortrag spricht sich darüber sols gendermaßen aus: "In richtiger Ersenntnis sehen die einen im Heiligtum, im gottesdienstlichen Wesen und Leben, an. Statt aber die weishin durch ihre eigene Schuld mißliebig gewordene Predigt, dies Kernstück urchristlichen und reformatorischen Gottesdienstes, aus dem Glauben zu reformieren, raten viele dazu, sie auf alle Fälle erheblich zu kürzen, zurückzudrängen, ja teilweise ganz verschieden zu lassen zugunsten von allerlei unartigen Gottesdienstgestaltungen, die zum Teil von dem Evangelium sehr wesensfremden Kräften regiert werden. Wir geraten heute in einen wahren Fregarten einer Herschaft der Korm und des Schmbols. "Ach-denke an die

hochkirchliche Betvegung, an die bedenkliche überschäung des Kultischen, des liturgischen Kunstausbaues und an alles das, was als religiös wertvoll, wirkungsstark, anziehend, ja stimmungsvoll oder gar mystisch betwegend ersachtet wird. Wan empsiehlt den schweigenden Gottesdienst hier, die Bersmehrung von Gesangss und Sprechchören da. Wan versucht es mit einem kultischen Withandeln der Gemeinde im Gottesdienst [?], man lätzt Lichtsträgerinnen austreten sgibt es solche hierzulande?], bevorzugt besondere Gewänder, macht reichlich gewagte Versuche mit dem Kirchenschmud und der Paramentik, ja scheut gar iheatralische Darstellungen um den Altar her nicht."

Eine tobtraute Rirde. Folgendes fei noch aus bem genannten Bortrag mitgeteilt: "Es rührt nun wohl unstreitig an die tiefste und ärgerlichste Not unserer Kirche, daß weithin unter unsern Laien bas Bertrauen zu der Berkundigung des Wortes Gottes und Evangeliums erschüttert, ja geschwunden ift. Wie überhaupt in unserm schlichten Bolt ein schweres Migtrauen gegen die atademifd Gebilbeten hochgewachsen war, fo im besonderen gegen ben akademisch gebildeten geistlichen Stand. . . . Unsere Kirche kann nur gebeihen durch eine Theologie bes Glaubens. Aber wie oft war und ift fie nur eine Theologie ber Kritit, ber iconungslofen, ufer-Iofen Bibelfritit, einer blog fritifden Betrachtung bes Lebens und Bertes Befu und aller Beilstaten Gottes, von benen die Gemeinde lebt! hat bis weit in die Kreise unserer schlichten Christen binein bas hergliche Bertrauen gur Bibel aufgelöft und die Buberficht gu ihrem göttlichen Offenbarungscharafter [?] entwurzelt. Wer fann benn noch mit Freuden die Schrift lefen, wenn alles als rein zeitgeschichtlich bebingt erscheint, alles menfchlich und allgu menfchlich, voller Gegenfabe und Zwiespaltigfeiten, ja fogar burchfest von Verfälschung bes wahren Evangeliums? Dadurch mußte ja die Kirche des Wortes todfrank werden, matt und kraftlos, geschüttelt bon immer neuen Fieberichauern ichtverfter Bweifelsnöte." Œ.

Die reformierte Abendmablolebre in ber lutherifden Rirde Deutid. Diefer Gegenstand wurde in ber Aprilnummer bes Concordia Theological Monthly, S. 304 f., besprochen. Da heißt es: "There may be exceptions, but the Rev. O. Wetklo is not 'right in saying that the Calvinistic teaching relative to the Sacraments prevails." Das hatte er in der Living Church behauptet. Die "Allg. Et. Duth. Kirchenzeitung" urteilt alfo: "Es fam [gu Marburg] gur Spaltung, gur bleibenben Lehrirrung im Abendmahl; und diefe Lehrirrung drang und dringt bor bis in die innersten Areise ber Rirche ber Reformation. Ober wie viele glauben heute noch an das Abendmahl, wie Luther geglaubt hat? Wie viele Pfarrer lehren in seinem Sinn? Bas glauben unsere Konfirmanden, wenn fie gum erftenmal gum Tifch bes Berrn treten? Dag noch rechter Glaube da ist bei Pfarrern und Gemeinden, bleibe unbestritten. Stellt man aber allgemein die Frage nach dem "Sinn des Abendmahls", so erhebt sich ein trahrhaft babylonisches Sprachengewirr, von der wissenschaftlichen Theologie an bis zu einem Teil der Gemeinschaften; den einen ift es mysterium tremendum: "Der GErr ift nabe", ben anbern gemutbolles Busammensein ber "Kinder Gottes" zur Erinnerung an JEfu Leiden." (10. April 1931.) E.

Religious Persecution in Russia.—The Central Bureau for Relief of the Evangelical Churches of Europe, Dr. Adolf Keller, executive secretary, supplies this side-light on conditions in Russia: "Several hundred Concordia Theological Monthly, Vol. 2 [], Art. 100 thousand people of various creeds and races have been torn from their homes and sent into exile as the result of the Soviet 'five-year plan for the liquidation of Christianity.' The unfortunate victims are herded into rough barracks, unsanitary and overcrowded, compelled to labor in swampy forest or in mines, without sufficient clothing in a climate where there is winter for nearly ten months in the year and with barely enough food to keep body and soul together. The scanty share of flour is 'stretched' with ground bark. Pitiful letters reflect the unutterable distress in such sentences as this: 'They say typhus has broken out in one of the barracks. Thank God! At last the end comes.'" (Bibliotheca Sacra.)

About the Syrian Church in India. - A writer in the Christian Century says that "His Holiness, Mar Elias, the patriarch of the Jacobite Syrian Church of Antioch, was in India with the object of settling the differences that arose in the Jacobite Syrian Church of South India between the Indian metropolitan of the Church and the patriarch himself. efforts made by the Anglican metropolitan of India and Bishop Charles Gore to bring about reconciliation between the contending parties did not prove successful. This was in February. Since then there have been a great many conversations and conferences between the representatives of both sections. The contention of the leaders of the Jacobite Church in India is that its autonomy under an Indian catholicos be recognized by the patriarch, the Church in India having only spiritual fellowship with the Church in Asia Minor. Recently the negotiations for the settlement of the differences have taken a turn for the better, and it is confidently hoped by many that, before the patriarch leaves India, he will announce a settlement which will bring peace to this section of the old Syrian Church. The Roman Catholic Church, taking advantage of the dissensions in the Jacobite Church, has been carrying on its work of propaganda vigorously, and two bishops and some clergy of the Jacobite Church have already joined Rome. That further inroads of the Roman Syrian Church may be prevented, which began in the sixteenth century with the help of Portuguese power and which have been kept up with the help of Western resources, it is hoped that Patriarch Elias will grant to the Indian wing of this Syrian Church the autonomy on which its heart is set." The Syrian Christians in India, as far as they have not joined Rome, are found chiefly in two groups. One is Nestorian in character (the so-called Thomas Christians); the other is monophysitic. It is the latter which is called the Jacobite Church and is referred to in the above communication.

Book Review. - Literatur.

Rommentar zum Alten Testament. Herausgegeben von Prof. D. Ernst Sellin. Band IX: Jesaia I. übersetzt und erklärt von D. Otto Prodsch, Prosessor der Theologie in Erlangen. A. Deichertsche Berslagsbuchhandlung D. Werner Scholl, Leipzig. 1930. XI und 476 Seiten 6½×9½. Preis: Geheftet, M. 22; gebunden, M. 25.

Es ift ein bebeutenbes Wert, beffen erfte Salfte bier vorliegt, vielleicht ber bebeutenbste Teil, ber bis jest von dem großen Sellinschen Rommentar erschienen ift, an bem bie befannteften alttestamentlichen tonserbativen Theologen ber Gegen-