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Book Review. — Literatur.

The Gospels according to the Eastern Version. Translated from the Aramaic by *George M. Lamsa*. 228 pages, 4¾ × 6¾, with gold titles and gold edges. A. J. Holman Co., Philadelphia. Price in limp cloth, \$2.50. Also more expensive bindings.

This is an interesting book, with perhaps even more academic value than the translation made from the Syriac Peshito Version by Dr. James Murock, who undertook that monumental task when he was past seventy years old. The assertion that the ancient Aramaic or Syriac is the language in which the gospels were originally written has frequently been advanced, but without even a remote show of actual proof. Aside from all other considerations, no Aramaic original of Matthew, Luke, or John has ever been presented, not even in Schonfield's *An Old Hebrew Text of St. Matthew's Gospel*. Internal and external evidence, dispassionately considered, eliminate the possibility of Aramaic originals. Nevertheless this book, like the literal translation furnished by Murdock, is interesting, partly because we may well concede that there was an early Aramaic translation of St. Matthew's gospel, partly because the accounts of the historical incidents, and especially the sayings of Jesus, as translated back into their probable original form, give many cues to the right understanding of the text, without, however, making the Aramaic (or ancient Syriac) authentic. For this particular purpose this book may serve better than translations made from other ancient versions.

P. E. KRETZMANN.

Christianity. The Paradox of God. By *Donald Mackenzie, D. D.* F. H. Revell Co. 221 pages, 5 × 7¾. Price, \$1.50. Order through Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.

This book by Dr. Mackenzie of Western Theological Seminary (Reformed Church) of Pittsburgh bears a title which by its unattractiveness is apt to frighten away readers. Also the chapter heads — "The Emergence of Paradox," "Paradox as Apparent Self-Contradiction," etc. — are not particularly intriguing. But whoever is willing to dig his way through the first fifty pages of introductory matter will gradually see the meaning of "paradox" in the author's sense and will receive new impressions of the transcendent nature of Christian revelation. The author touches upon most of the great doctrines of Christianity — the deity of Christ, the atonement, justification by faith. Luther is referred to often, and the writer has all the clearness of the Lutheran conception of what is Christianity and what are its fundamental truths. A book like Mackenzie's cannot be illustrated by quotation; yet there are so many fine things here that the reviewer cannot forbear quoting at least a number of sentences that characterize the writer's style and define his doctrinal position: —

"Christianity is paradoxical in the sense that it is contrary to current opinion, not simply current opinion at its worst, but at its best. 'Christ is Truth, not custom,' said Tertullian, and Luther was fond of quoting: 'O doxa, doxa, quam es communis noxa!' 'O opinion, opinion, what a com-

mon nuisance art thou!' Of his own doctrine of justification by faith alone, which is just Christianity rediscovered, they said, 'Your fond paradox of justification by faith alone.' . . . As Freeman, the historian, says: 'It went right in the teeth of all that was good and bad in the Roman of the fourth century,'—not only all that was bad, but all that was good."

"We are all familiar with those who take a narrow view of the Parable of the Prodigal Son and on this meager basis raise a whole theology. To take one strand of truth and raise it to the dignity of the whole truth is to make the truth itself false; for truth is often a matter of emphasis and shading and blending."

"As far as I understand the gospels, our Lord did not expect the Christian ethic of unchristian men, nor did the New Testament epistles; and perhaps we err in expecting of the world that it shall rise to this level until it is evangelized. Our motto, following the New Testament, should be: 'First evangelize, then ethicize.' Most of the New Testament ethic, even the ethic of the Sermon on the Mount, is for saints—a fact which is too often forgotten."

"Even the Christian ethic alone cannot save the world, glorious and heavenly as that ethic is. Its very perfection condemns us. You must flee, from the demands of Christ as our Example to His offer of grace, to Christ as the Gift of God."

"Self-righteousness is more damaging to the soul than even sin itself; it is, in fact, the greatest evangelical sin."

"It is told of Bossuet that in his dying hour, when he had well-nigh lost the power of speech, he spoke to one who came to his bedside and who praised him and reminded him of his good works and begged of him to exercise his influence in the next world on behalf of his friends, somewhat on this fashion: 'Don't talk like that. Ask God to forgive a sinner his sins.' . . . Bossuet, much as he may have defended good works, in his life was yet more of a Lutheran than he himself knew."

"Christ on the cross said 'Amen' to God's holiness, whose wrath blazes against sin. He did that, not as an irrational victim, but in the holy ardor of obedience. He became a willing Victim. Standing for us sinners, whom He carried in His heart, He endured for us, and God condemned our sin in His person there. The cross is therefore an everlasting interdict from heaven against sin. Men might trifle with sin before this. They know they cannot trifle with it now."

But we must stop here. Mackenzie's book is brilliant and thought-provoking. We only regret that the author's love of paradox has led him to such doubtful statements as: "Christ changed for man the unchangeable God" (p. 57), that he holds it possible to "roll Huxley and Wordsworth into one and add the psalmist" (p. 18), and that he looks upon "election of grace" and "natural selection" as being "both sides of God's activity."

TH. GRAEBNER.

Das Regensburger Religionsgespräch von 1601. Geschichtlich dargestellt und dogmengeschichtlich beleuchtet von Lic. Dr. Wilhelm Herbst. Druck und Verlag von C. Bertelsmann in Gütersloh. 297 Seiten.

Das Regensburger Religionsgespräch von 1601, veranstaltet von Philipp Ludwig, Pfalzgraf von Neuburg, ist fast in Vergessenheit geraten. Und doch sind die Verhandlungen, die dort gepflogen wurden, nicht nur interessant und wichtig,

sondern sie haben auch ihren bestimmten Platz in der Dogmengeschichte. Es handelte sich hauptsächlich um das Schriftprinzip. Das Tridentiner Konzil hatte den Satz aufgestellt, daß die Kirche Schrift und Tradition „*pari pietatis affectu et reverentia suscipit et veneratur*“. Das ist der Punkt, um den sich der Kampf zwischen Lutheranern und Katholiken im nachtridentinischen Zeitalter dreht. Mit dem ihnen eigenen Scharfblick haben die Jesuiten, die jetzt die ganze Apologetik und Polemik der Römischen leiten, dies als den Hauptpunkt erkannt. Und das tritt vor allem in Regensburg zu Tage. Man hatte auf lutherischer Seite zwanzig Fragen zur Verhandlung vorgelegt; die Jesuiten stellten dagegen nur e i n e These auf: „*Scriptura Sacra non est iudex controversiarum fidei et religionis christianae. Est quidem norma infallibilis, verum nec sola nec unica. Sed praeter hanc necessario admitti debent traditiones et ecclesiae definitiones doctorumque orthodoxorum consensus.* — Und weiter ist man nicht gekommen; die vierzehn Sessionen führten zu keinem Resultat.

Das vorliegende Buch bietet einen genauen Bericht der Verhandlungen nach dem täglichen Protokoll; eine Beschreibung der einschlägigen Dokumente, deren viele wörtlich abgedruckt werden; eine Vorgeschichte; und schließlich ein Kapitel über die Stellung des Kolloquiums in der dogmengeschichtlichen Entwicklung. Beigegeben sind Platten mit Bildnissen der teilnehmenden Personen.

Wer sich überzeugen will, wie hoffnungslos alle Vereinigungsversuche zwischen Protestanten und Katholiken sein müssen, solange die Papstkirche an dem Satz des Tridentinums festhält, und wieviel darum alle „Hirtenbriefe“ des Papstes mit seinen freundlichen Einladungen an alle Protestanten, in den Schoß der römischen Mutterkirche zurückzukehren, zu bedeuten habe, der verschaffe sich diese Abhandlung.

T h e o. S o b e r.

Mooring Masts of Revelation. By *Melvin Grove Kyle, D. D., LL. D.*, late Research Lecturer, Pittsburgh-Xenia Seminary, Lecturer on Archeology at Louisville Presbyterian Seminary, and former President of Xenia Seminary. Introduction by *J. L. Kelso, Th. D., D. D.* Fleming H. Revell Co., New York. 217 pages, 5½ × 8½. Price, \$2.00.

The late Dr. M. G. Kyle, the author of this book, was favorably known in wide circles as an unusually capable Christian apologist, especially in the field of archeological apologetics. By training an Egyptologist, he devoted the last years of his life almost exclusively to Palestinian archeology, exploring at first at Sodom and Gomorrah and later on digging on four occasions at Kirjath-sopher. His love for the Bible as God's Word was great and deep, and to defend its truth against the charges of unbelieving critics was with him a veritable passion. Besides the more technical works, which he addressed mainly to the Christian theologian and well-read layman, he wrote also a number of popular books for Christian readers in general, and *Mooring Masts of Revelation* is one of these. Its title the author explains by referring to the large Zeppelins which are secured by means of strong masts. So there are mooring masts also to which God's revealed Word is fastened. To show how these "mooring masts" tower in the ages of the patriarchs, of Moses and the prophets, and of Christ's holy apostles, is the burden of this volume, which the author describes more accurately in a subtitle as a "Study of Towering Bible Characters by Walks and Talks at Sacred Places." Dr. Kyle guides his readers from one "holy place" to another, and always interestingly

and instructively. Beginning with Ur of the Chaldees, from which Abraham journeyed to the "West Land," he unfolds step by step God's wondrous revelations to His chosen vessels of grace, until the time was fulfilled and the promised Redeemer appeared. But the holy places and the holy men are only the setting for the sermonic meditations which he weaves around the scenes and men. The "walks" and "talks" greatly stimulate the reader's interest in all things Biblical, especially in the divine truths which made the places and men holy. We do not agree with everything that Dr. Kyle says in this book, yet there is so much that is good in it,— so much simple faith in God's promises, so much true love for His Word, and so much of the Christian hope in the city to come,— that it will work blessings wherever it is read. Five very fine pictures are added: "Light Rays on the Euphrates," "A Ram Caught in a Thicket," "A Burning Bush," "The Mountain of the Law," and "Mount Hermon."

J. T. MUELLER.

The Lutheran Church in American History. By *Abdel Ross Wentz*. United Lutheran Publication House, Philadelphia. 465 pages, 5¼ × 7¼. Price, \$2.00.

This is the second, revised and considerably enlarged edition by Dr. Wentz, professor in church history at the Lutheran Seminary, Gettysburg, Pa. It is the most complete and up-to-date general history of our Church in America on the market to-day, and we can well understand that the first edition found ready and wide acceptance. No doubt the second will likewise. The fact that the author interprets Lutheran history in our country "from the viewpoint that the life of the Church is continually influenced by its environment" makes it doubly interesting. His discussion of the work of our Synod is fair and impartial, but one is surprised that no mention is made of the work of Dr. F. Pieper. His concluding paragraph on our Synod summarizes the present situation as follows:—

"From these facts and figures it is evident that the spirit of enterprise is rapidly invading this large and conservative body of Lutherans. The entire membership of the Missouri Synod is stoutly loyal to the principles of the body. The laymen have begun to enlist in the active work of the Church. New methods of work are being constantly devised. Larger resources are being placed at the service of the general Church. Modern methods of publicity and business administration are coming to be applied. And this new spirit of enterprise among the Missourians, together with their rapid growth in numbers and expansion in territory, their contagious enthusiasm for purity of doctrine, their constant emphasis on thorough educational methods, and their relatively large supply of ministerial candidates make this branch of the Lutheran Church in our country one of the most vigorous elements in American Christianity."

Dr. Wentz's chapter on the American Lutheran Church closes with this characterization:—

"The American Lutheran Church takes pride in its correct Lutheranism. It declares against the 'separatism' of the Missouri Lutherans because they 'refuse to recognize certain other synods as Lutheran unless these others accept their method of presenting Biblical truth as the only method permissible in the Lutheran Church and . . . carry this spirit so

far that they will not even pray with these others.' At the same time it declares against the 'unionism' of the Lutherans in the United Lutheran Church, because they 'fail to apply the Galesburg Rule: "Lutheran pulpits for Lutheran pastors only and Lutheran altars for Lutheran communicants only," and continue to tolerate pastors who are affiliated with Masonic lodges and permit pastors and congregations to engage in unscriptural practises.' But the American Lutheran Church cooperates heartily with a number of other Lutheran bodies in the work of the National Lutheran Council, the American Lutheran Conference, and the Lutheran World Convention."

What makes the book particularly valuable for the student who wishes to delve more deeply is the bibliography appended at the end of each chapter.

W. G. POLACK.

Der Ursinn des Kleinen Katechismus. Von **Karl Bornhäuser**. C. Verlagsmann in Gütersloh. 192 Seiten 6x8¾. Preis: M. 4.50, kartoniert; M. 6, gebunden.

Es ist dies eine wirklich wertvolle und anregende Schrift des bekannten Verfassers. Er will die Frage beantworten: Welches ist der Ursinn des Kleinen Katechismus? Wie hat D. Luther ihn verstanden? D. Bornhäuser hält dafür, daß der Katechismus nicht als eigentliches Bekenntnisbuch der Kirche von Luther verfaßt sei, auch nicht zunächst als Bekenntnis seines persönlichen Glaubens. Und darin wird jeder ihm beistimmen. Auch darin muß man dem Verfasser beistimmen, daß Luther bei der Abfassung seines Kleinen Katechismus den Hausvater und sein Gefinde im Sinn hatte. Doch glaube ich, daß es zu weit gegangen ist, wenn behauptet wird, daß Luther bei der Verfassung seines Katechismus ausschließlich an den Hausvater und nicht auch an die Schule gedacht habe, wenn auch der Katechismus ein passendes Schulbuch sei. Wir hoffen später einmal nachzuweisen, daß allerdings Luther bei der Verfassung seines Katechismus auch die Schule im Auge hatte. So können wir auch in manchen andern Stücken den Behauptungen des Verfassers nicht zustimmen. Und doch ist in dem Büchlein so viel Vortreffliches gesagt. Die Pflichten der Eltern ihren Kindern gegenüber werden so nachdrücklich und eindrucksvoll eingeschärft, so manches Wort des Katechismus erscheint dem Leser in einem ganz neuen Licht, daß man dem Verfasser von Herzen dankbar ist für seine fleißige Arbeit und sein Buch dem urteilsfähigen Leser empfehlen kann.

L. V ä t f c h.

Studies in Lutheran Higher Education. Trends and Issues Affecting Lutheran Higher Education. The report of a committee representing the higher educational institutions of the American Lutheran Conference. Vol. I, September, 1933, No. 1. Published in Minneapolis, Minn., by the Augsburg Publishing House. 79 pages, 8x10½. Price, 65 cts. Order through Concordia Publishing House. St. Louis, Mo.

We are dealing here with a valuable publication. While the committee which is responsible for this volume was composed chiefly of teachers belonging to the American Lutheran Conference, the problems discussed are those which all Lutheran schools have to face. The introduction informs us on the origin of the brochure. "The study originated in a joint publicity effort carried on by the higher schools of the American

Lutheran Conference last spring through the Commission of Higher Education. During this joint effort it became apparent that the whole issue of higher education had become uncertain and needed study and restatement. The social and educational changes, the economic pressure, had begun to undermine the victorious certainty which made 1919—1930 the glory period of Lutheran higher education. The Commission on Higher Education asked Dr. O. H. Pannkoke to organize a committee of representatives of the colleges of the American Lutheran Conference. It was decided that the committee should do its work at an outstanding educational center, with the assistance of a leading educator. The University of Chicago was selected as offering the best facilities in the Middle West, and Dr. George A. Works was chosen as the adviser of the committee." The committee acknowledges its indebtedness to the authorities of the university, among them President R. M. Hutchins, Dean C. F. Huth, and Dr. George A. Works, Dean of Students and University Examiner. The committee consisted of sixteen members, representing thirteen different schools. The chapter headings furnish an inkling of the wealth of material here offered: "A Changing Social Order"; "The Church in a Changing Social Order"; "The Meaning of Higher Education for the Church"; "Trends in Higher Education"; "Objectives of Lutheran Higher Education"; "A Social Task of Lutheran Colleges"; "The Curriculum"; "The Teacher"; "Selection of Students"; "Personal Vocational Educational Guidance"; "Tests and Measurements"; "The Future of Lutheran Higher Education"; "Bibliography." What the committee endeavored to study and fix were the conditions which have to obtain if Lutheran schools are to be up to date in the best sense of the word and at the same time preserve the precious heritage which we designate by "the faith of the fathers." The publication represents an immense amount of work and is replete with important information. To all who are interested in higher education it is cordially recommended. We understand that a second printing has become necessary. For information regarding the brochure one may apply to the chairman of the committee, Dr. O. H. Pannkoke, 447 N. Lombard Ave., Oak Park, Ill.

W. ARNDT.

Neue Kraft für jeden Tag. Von D. W i l h. V a i b l e. Verlag von Dörffling & Franke, Leipzig. 1933. 399 Seiten 5×7½, in Leinwand mit Rücken- und Dedeltitel gebunden. Preis: M. 4.50.

Dies ist nun der zweite Band des Werkes, das wir im Augustheft 1933, S. 639, zur Anzeige gebracht haben. Er umfaßt die festliche Hälfte des Kirchenjahres, vom Trinitatissonntag an bis zum Sonnabend nach dem 27. Sonntag nach Trinitatis. Es sind, wie wir früher schon gesagt haben, lauter Betrachtungen, wie sie seit Jahren als Eingangartikel in der „Allgemeinen Evangelisch-Lutherischen Kirchenzeitung“ gestanden und wo wir sie wohl fast ohne Ausnahme gelesen haben. Der Verfasser hat eine besondere Gabe, ein Schriftwort zu betrachten, und seine Gedanken in origineller Weise und in edler, gewählter Sprache auszuführen. Hin und wieder würden wir wohl einen Satz etwas anders formulieren oder auslassen, aber sonst kann man diese Betrachtungen nicht ohne viel Belehrung, Mahnung und Erquickung lesen.

A. F ü r b e r g e r.

Talks with Young Parents. By *Nancy Smith Krusekopf*. Eden Publishing House, St. Louis and Chicago. 123 pages, 5×7½. Price, \$1.25.

This is a collection of thirty short articles, or chapters, dealing with problems of child-training. There is much excellent material in these pages concerning the rearing of children, practically all the customary difficulties being touched upon or discussed in detail, usually with helpful suggestions. References to "millennial blessedness" and similar terms are of course not to be taken literally. We cannot follow the author in reducing the authority of the Fourth Commandment, particularly in explaining to little children the reason for every command. The obedience of early childhood must be absolute, to be changed to relative obedience only when they have some background of the Word of God. It is just this point which in our opinion is not sufficiently stressed—the nurture and admonition of the Lord. But the discriminating pastor will be able to use this book to good advantage for talks before his ladies' aid, also before Sunday-school teachers' associations and parent-teachers' meetings. In that case even the frequent duplication of material will not disturb him.

P. E. KRETZMANN.

Songs and Prayers for Various Occasions. Selected by *F. C. Streufert*. Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo. 94 pages, 2¾×5. Price, 12 cts., postpaid; dozen, \$1.20, and postage; 100, \$9.00, and postage.

This booklet contains 47 hymns suitable for public or private worship or other gatherings, a few folk-songs, 20 prayers for various occasions, a number of comforting Scripture-passages and psalms, excerpts from the Catechism, and the Order of Communion Service. It is suitable to be carried in the vest-pocket of the business man or laborer or in the purse of young and old women, for vacation trips by auto, rail, or boat, for mass distribution in institutions, in mission-stations, in reforestation camps, in societies, etc.

T. LAETSCH.

Handbuch der deutschen evangelischen Kirchenmusik. 1. Band, 2. Teil, Bogen 1—4: Der Altargefang. Vandenhoeck & Rupprecht, Göttingen. 64 Seiten 7½×10½. Preis: M. 4.80 bei Subscription auf nur e i n e n Band; M. 4.40 bei Subscription auf alle drei Bände.

Wieder eine neue Lieferung dieses monumentalen Werkes. Sie bildet die erste Lieferung der liturgischen Tonsätze, mehrstimmig gesetzt. Ganz richtig bemerken die Herausgeber, daß diese mehrstimmigen Sätze nur in Verbindung mit den einstimmigen Weisen gebraucht werden sollten. Ein Chor sollte zum Beispiel erst dann den mehrstimmigen Satz singen, wenn er sich die Weise in ihrer ursprünglichen Gestalt zu eigen gemacht hat. Da finden wir nun verschiedene Kyries, Gloria's und Credos. Wir brauchen nur einige Namen zu nennen, dann weiß jeder, der sich mit der lutherischen Kirchenmusik beschäftigt hat, was er zu erwarten hat: Michael Pretorius, Melchior Vulpinus, Johann Rugelmann, Hans Leo Hasler, Heinrich Schütz. Ich möchte wohl einmal die gewaltigen Melodien, die uns von Jugend auf bekannt sind: „Wir glauben all' an einen Gott“, „Allein Gott in der Höh' sei Ehr“ und das deutsche Gloria „All' Ehr' und Lob soll Gottes sein“ nach diesen Tonstücken hören! Kürzlich erfuhren wir, daß dieses große Werk sich in der Bibliothek einer bekannten weltlichen Universität im mittleren Westen findet. Ob es sich wohl auch schon in unsern Kreisen findet und Anlaß gibt zum Studium rechter lutherischer Kirchenmusik? U. F ü r b r i n g e r.

Verhandlungen der fünfunddreißigsten Jahresversammlung des Süd-Wisconsin-Distrikts der Ev.-Luth. Synode von Missouri, Ohio und andern Staaten. 72 Seiten 6X9. Preis: 14 Cts.

Sechzehnter Synodalbericht des Süd-Illinois-Distrikts. 78 Seiten. Preis: 21 Cts. Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.

Hier sind wiederum zwei Berichte, die manches Lehrreiche darbieten. Im Bericht des Süd-Wisconsin-Distrikts wird durch P. C. P. Schulz die Frage beantwortet: „Wann nur können wir die Lehre von der Rechtfertigung rein und unverfälscht bewahren?“ Nur die ersten drei Thesen kamen zur Besprechung, daß nämlich dies möglich ist nur dann, wenn wir festhalten an der Schriftlehre von der Sünde, von der Gnade Gottes und von den Gnadenmitteln. P. C. Pfaff referierte über die Frage: „Can and Should a Christian Be Certain of His Present and Future Salvation?“

Im Bericht des Süd-Illinois-Distrikts zeigt P. G. J. Bouman unter dem Titel „Jesus das Leben der Seinen“, wie Jesus uns von Gott gemacht ist zur Heiligung des Lebens. P. C. Thomas Spitz zeigt in seinem Referat „The Doctrine of the Holy Ministry a Component Part of the Prophetic Office of Christ“, wie Christus noch heute durch die Predigt des Evangeliums sein prophetisches Amt auf Erden ausrichtet. Alle vier Referate sind durchaus praktisch und zeitgemäß.

L. V ä t s c h.

Eingegangene Literatur.

Neue Kirchliche Zeitschrift. Herausgegeben von Joh. Bergdolt, Th. Zahn, Fr. Veit, L. Z h m e l s und andern. Deichert, Leipzig. 44. Jahrgang, 9. Heft. — Inhalt: W. Schmerl: „Zum Gedächtnis Theodor Zahns“; Bornhäuser: „Zum Verständnis von Phil. 2, 5—11“; Karl Kind: „Die tragische Fehlentwicklung der deutschen Erziehungsgeschichte“; Ernst Strahe: „Das vierte Hauptstück in Luthers Kleinem Katechismus und die Mission“ (1. Teil); J. Bergdolt: Zeitschriften-Rundschau.

Theologie der Gegenwart. Herausgegeben von R. Beth, D. Eberhard, W. Eichardt und andern. Deichert, Leipzig. 27. Jahrgang, 9. Heft. — Inhalt: G. W. Schormerus: „Neuererscheinungen auf dem Gebiet der Religionsgeschichte.“

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