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Book Review. - Literatur

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Book Review. — Literatur.

The Genesis of Genesis. By *D. E. Hart-Davies, M. A., D. D. Fleming H. Revell Company, New York, N. Y.* 182 pages, 4¼×7¼. Price, \$1.50.

The author attempts "to reveal the soul of Holy Scripture" and "to be spiritually illuminative rather than critically controversial." His thesis maintains that the Wellhausen Theory and the Documentary Hypothesis are not only outworn, but impossible. Yet he believes that the creation day was a period of long duration; that the Sabbath was instituted in the second chapter of Genesis; that Eden was an immense district, reaching as far north as Armenia; that in the fall of man we have a figurative representation of an actual event, for which there can be no strictly literal interpretation in every detail; and that it is uncertain whether the Deluge was universal. With these reservations, the book, although not deeply scholarly, may be read with much interest and profit, because it is a conservative attempt to evaluate the Scriptures from a reverent point of view.

WALTER A. MAIER.

The Interpretation of the Acts of the Apostles. By *R. C. H. Lenski, D. D.* Lutheran Book Concern, Columbus, O. 1,126 pages, 5½×9. Price, \$4.50. Order from Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.

Indefatigably Dr. Lenski is continuing the writing and publishing of commentaries on the books of the New Testament. The work which he here presents to the theological public is a worthy successor of the commentaries on the gospels. Externally the work is a very attractive production of the printer's art. The print is large, the lines are not too close to each other; the pages are not overladen with material, but make possible easy and rapid reading; the English translation of the various sections is always printed in bold type, and the Greek words are given in smaller letters, so that they at once stand apart. Concerning the English version of the text incorporated into the commentary the author says (p. 4): "The translation of the text is an effort in some measure to indicate the Greek wording and the Greek constructions for readers to whom this may be helpful." This attempt of the author accounts for some clumsy and awkward renderings, for instance, when chap. 2, 23 is translated thus: "Him, delivered up by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, you through lawless men's hands fastening up made away with." In our opinion this is not a good method to follow. The rule given by the famous German classical scholar Cauer should be observed even for purposes like the one the author had in mind: "*so genau wie moeglich und so frei wie noetig.*" The man who knows Greek does not need such an overliteral translation, and the one who does not know it is merely bewildered by such renderings. However, this is a point on which opinions may differ.—The introduction is a brief, but sufficiently comprehensive review of the various opinions that have been voiced as to the authorship of Acts and the identity of St. Luke and of the great work which men like Ramsay have done in placing investigations pertaining to this book on a conservative basis. In the interpretation itself the author always proceeds from the Greek in his endeavor to penetrate to the very meaning of the inspired author,

avoiding, however, to encumber his pages with a recital of the futile speculations of other scholars and a mere display of learning for its own sake. In this respect Dr. Lenski's work may serve as a model. It may be that now and then it would have been better if he had quoted the positions taken by preceding commentators; for it cannot be denied that a judicious use of such quotations tends to make a commentary interesting. For the manner in which the thoughts of the holy writer are analyzed and their various aspects and the truths they contain brought out we have a very high regard. Here you have not mere verbiage, but scholarly discussion.—As was to be expected, the teachings presented are those of the Lutheran Confessions. When Dr. Lenski discusses St. Luke's references to Baptism and the Lord's Supper, one is given a beautiful and highly profitable vindication of what the Lutheran Church has always taught on these Sacraments. We cannot refrain from taking over a few words pertaining to the mode of baptism in connection with the discussion of the first Christian Pentecost (p. 112): "The Church has selected the simplest mode, probably much like the one employed in Jerusalem. To insist on one mode and to condemn all others is worse than presumptuous. We may add that all the pictorial and archeological evidence on the mode of baptism in the early Church has been gathered by Clement F. Rogers, M. A., *Baptism and Christian Archeology*, Oxford, Clarendon Press. This man approached his investigation with the conviction that immersion was the primitive and original mode. He found the exact contrary to be true. The most ancient tracings and carvings portray the act of baptism as being carried out by pouring, picturing John baptizing Jesus and picturing other baptisms. Not one presents a picture of immersion. All the earliest fonts found in ruins and in excavations are shallow, a few steps down," etc. At points where unbelieving critics have voiced their doubts and their rejection of the inspired account this commentary valiantly defends the Holy Scriptures and does not hesitate to uphold the inerrancy and verbal inspiration of the Bible. A glance at any one section of such a nature, for instance, that of Paul's conversion, will show that the author has familiarized himself with the many theories advanced by the naturalistic critics, that he has weighed them and found them wanting. It was only at rare intervals that this reviewer felt he had to dissent from Dr. Lenski's presentation. One of these instances, as the initiated reader will at once surmise, was at Acts 13, 48, which Dr. Lenski refuses to look upon as referring to the doctrine of predestination. He translates the words in question: "And they believed, as many as had been ranged in order for life eternal." He says: "The passage deals with the doctrine of conversion" (p. 546), "and thus the point is to exclude all synergism" (*ib.*). But here everything is against him, the text itself and unbiased scholarship. In a recent commentary, edited in its third edition by Bousset and Heitmüller, *Die Schriften des Neuen Testaments, neu uebersetzt und fuer die Gegenwart erkluert*, Rudolf Knopf, who certainly had no predestinarian axe to grind, translates: "Und alle, die zum ewigen Leben bestimmt waren, wurden gläubig." It cannot be denied that here Dr. Lenski's prejudices misled him. On the whole, however, his commentary constitutes a splendid contribution to Lutheran theological literature and should be given a cordial reception.

W. ARNDT.

The Biblical Doctrine of Election. 23 pages. Price, 25 cts.

The Implications of Public Confession. 90 pages. Price, 65 cts. By *Abraham Kuyper*. Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Mich. 1934.

The Biblical Doctrine of Election, a treatise by the Dutch theologian Kuyper, †1920 (Christian Reformed Church), does not present the Biblical doctrine, but the Calvinistic teaching—supralapsarianism in a modified form. A study of this brochure will show that a deep gulf separates Lutheranism from Calvinism, Calvinism being ruled by an essentially different material principle than Lutheranism. Study Dr. Kuyper's statement: "Under God, it is John Calvin who has made the dogma of God's eternal election the *cor ecclesiae*, that is, 'the heart of the Church.' . . . It was Calvin's conviction that the Church had but one choice with respect to this teaching, namely, to make it the very center of our confession. . . . He placed the eternal election in the foreground." (P. 6.) And the translator, G. Van Pernis, has put it on the title-page: "*Cor Ecclesiae—The Biblical Doctrine of Election.*"

The Implications of Public Confession (translated by Prof. H. Zylstra) contains much valuable material. In the Reformed churches a public confession before the elders and minister, prior to the first Communion, takes the place, somewhat, of confirmation. While Kuyper, the Reformed theologian, looks upon Baptism and the Lord's Supper, not as efficacious means of grace, but as symbols of grace received and to be received, and as sacred ordinances, he holds them within these limits in high regard, more so than many others of the Reformed faith, and what he says concerning the necessity of thorough instruction of the children in God's Word and concerning the necessity of true faith for salvation appeals to every Christian. He, "the great theologian and philosopher," also knows how to employ simple language to carry his warm appeal.

TH. ENGELDER.

Die Anfänge der evangelischen Bekenntnisbildung bis 1529/30. Vortrag, gehalten von Hans von Schubert. M. Heinicus Nachfolger Eger & Siebers. Leipzig. 1928. 41 Seiten. Preis: RM. 1.50.

Der Reichstag von Augsburg im Zusammenhang der Reformationsgeschichte. Vortrag von Hans von Schubert. M. Heinicus Nachfolger Eger & Siebers. Leipzig. 1930. 36 Seiten. Preis: RM. 1.50.

Diese beiden Hefte (Heft 2 und 3, Jahrgang 45 der „Schriften des Vereins für Reformationsgeschichte“) bringen zwei Vorträge, die der „Altmeister der Erforschung der Reformationsgeschichte“ Prof. Dr. Hans von Schubert gehalten hat und die uns hier, zum Teil etwas erweitert, im Druck dargeboten werden. Durch beide hat der Verfasser uns wieder, wie schon oft, zu Dank verpflichtet. Unter dem ersten Titel zeigt er, daß die übliche Auffassung zu einfach ist: Die evangelische Bekenntnisbildung fällt in die Jahre 1529/30; der zweite Reichstag von Speyer brachte die Notwendigkeit mit sich, daß man bekennen mußte. Wie vielmehr die alten Bekenntnisse langsam aus zwei Wurzeln hervorgegangen sind, deren eine der Abgrenzung, die andere der Selbstbergewisserung dient, so auch hier. Der Autor führt die Bekenntnisbildung in der Kirche der Reformation auf Melancthon's Vorlesungen über den Römerbrief, 1519, zurück, die damals zur Herausgabe seiner *Loci* führten. Beigegeben ist ein Faksimile des Marburger

Unionsvorschlages, und Dr. Schubert schließt mit den auch jetzt und auch für uns beachtenswerten Worten: „Mit zwei Mahnungen möchte ich schließen. Wir befinden uns nicht mehr weit von den Jubiläen von Marburg und Augsburg; sorgen wir für eine wirkliche Kenntnis ihrer Geschichte! Und zweitens. Wir stehen, wie es scheint, vor einer neuen Bekenntnisbildung der nichtrömischen Welt. Sie hat ihre eigenen großen Gefahren. Sorgen wir, daß das Kernstück unserer ganzen reformatorischen Bekenntnisbildung seinen Platz nicht einbüßt. Nicht um Jeremionen handelt es sich“, schreibt 1524 Melancthon an den Kunzjus Campeggio; „Luther kämpft um Größeres; es geht um den Unterschied von Gottes Gerechtigkeit und der Menschen Gerechtigkeit.“ Nicht um den Kultus, sagen wir mit Melancthon, um Größeres kämpfen wir, um das Erbe Luthers, um die Frage Gesetz oder Gnade und damit um den Frieden des Gewissens.“ Der zweite Titel bietet in gedrängter Kürze den Hintergrund zum Reichstag von Augsburg, den Gang der Dinge, der schließlich zum Reichstag führte und diesem Reichstag samt seinen Verhandlungen das eigentümliche Gepräge gab. — Aus Dr. Schuberts Schriften möchte man immer zitieren; der Raum verbietet es jedoch. Man lasse sich nicht durch die geringe Seitenzahl dieser Büchlein beirren; sie bieten viel mehr, als ihre Größe anzudeuten scheint. T h e o. S o h e r.

Cromwell. By *Hilaire Belloc*. With 8 double-tone illustrations and 12 maps. J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia and London. 356 pages. Price, \$4.00.

The famous author of this book was born in 1870 of a French father and an English mother, and his life has been divided between France and England. He has been a prolific writer for years. In his historical biographies he has moved mainly within the bounds of English history during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries in presenting such important figures as Wolsey, Cranmer, Charles the First, and James the Second, although he passes over to France in his *Richelieu* and *Napoleon*. In this volume he does not aim at offering another life of Cromwell; for, he says, “there are dozens too many, the earlier batch a mass of slander, the later, a mass of panegyric—all of them a myth.” His own declared object is “to seek reality; to discover what Cromwell was within; the nature of the man’s motives, the quality of his actions as witnesses to the moral truth about himself.” The result is an intensely interesting book. The author’s style is terse and vivid. He has a fine sense of the dramatic, but his conclusions are based on deductions drawn from his speculations on personal motives and interests and are not always convincing. In fact, this reviewer questions any man’s ability, no matter how famous he may be, to read accurately the mind of another man, whether living or dead. True, to attempt that is the modern biographical method; but it may be strongly questioned if our present-day biographies are the last word in their particular field. At the same time there is no doubt that Hilaire Belloc has given us a valuable contribution in his *Cromwell*, that will help us understand better the man and his age. His summary of Cromwell’s career is given in these words: “He was a man who could not but take on the task which his own immediate past, and the past of that society wherein he found himself the chief, imposed upon him. But it remained a task and a grievous one: ungrateful, distasteful, in moments abhorrent. Over and over again he would have relieved the pressure of it

from his own shoulders, — and death caught him too suddenly, still anxiously conceiving yet another scheme whereby he might escape from carrying a weight for which he was unfitted." (P. 314.)

Incidentally, in discussing the religious background of Cromwell, Belloc gives a fine pen picture of Calvin. The author's own religious views are no doubt reflected in the following paragraph, in which he describes Calvin's doctrine of the Fall and of justification: "The race of man was accursed. It had fallen not from a supernatural to a natural state (as Catholics did vainly pretend), but to a diabolic one and was native to hell. Such as might be excepted owed their strange good fortune to no act of their own, but solely to the merits of a divine Savior, which merits were, by a lawyer's fiction, 'imputed to the elect.'" Later he passes the following judgment without giving his reasons: "He [Calvin] was the greatest by far (and not only greater in scale, but greater in quality) of all the Reformers."

W. G. POLACK.

Verdeutschung der Paulinischen Briefe von den ersten Anfängen bis Luther.
Beiträge zu ihrer Geschichte mit neuen Texten, synoptischen Tabellen und drei Bildtafeln. Herausgegeben in Gemeinschaft mit Friedrich Jülicher, Wilhelm Lüdtke und Richard Newald von Hans Volkmmer, Hamburg. 1934. Akademische Verlagsgesellschaft Athenaion, Potsdam. 240 Seiten 6½ × 9½. Preis: RM. 20.

Wir haben diesen neuesten Band in der Sammlung „Bibel und deutsche Kultur“ mit dem größten Interesse durchgesehen. Er führt in ganz vorzüglicher Weise die vor etwa Jahresfrist begonnenen Untersuchungen zur Geschichte der vorlutherischen Bibelverdeutschung fort, indem er die Paulinischen Briefe behandelt. Eine ganze Reihe neuer Texte wird hier vorgeführt. Von den 240 Seiten des Bandes umfassen 100 sogenannte synoptische Tabellen zu den folgenden Stellen: Röm. 13, 11—14; 1 Kor. 5, 7, 8; 1 Kor. 13 (wo im ganzen 66 Texte angeführt werden); Phil. 2, 6—8; Hebr. 12, 28—13, 8. Seite 128—228 bieten eine „Deutsche Übersetzung der Paulusbrieve nach der Gotthard und der Salzburger Handschrift“. Jeder Theolog, der sich für die deutsche Bibel interessiert, wird diesen Band mit Interesse und Nutzen lesen. Sein Studium wird uns die Lutherbibel um so viel lieber machen. P. E. R e c h m a n n.

Religion and the Good Life. By William Clayton Bower. The Abingdon Press. 231 pages, 5½ × 8. Price, \$2.00.

The author is the head of the Department of Practical Theology in the Divinity School of the University of Chicago. He endeavors to show the fundamental relation between religion and the good life. "In our present thought . . . we are only at the stage of analysis. . . . The conclusive answer to our problem must wait upon the application of research, particularly experimentation, to the specific problems involved." By that time the author and his readers may be dead and buried.

Here is his definition of personality: "Personality is a more or less stable organization of physico-chemical elements, impulses, habits, attitudes, ideas, and purposes, undergoing continuous change." Page 22 we read: "It is the *ethical quality* of personality that constitutes character." On pages 24 and 25 he mentions two sets of criteria by which the character of persons is judged: "One of these is the conventional moral standard

held by the group of which the person is a member. . . . The other set of criteria by which the quality of one's character is judged consists of the ethical standards which the person himself holds and by which he seeks to regulate his own conduct." Page 31: "Is there, then, one may ask, no absolute standard of right and wrong by which one may regulate his conduct? To this inquiry current ethics gives a negative answer, as current thought in other realms does to similar inquiries concerning absolute truth or absolute law. Absolutes of every sort have been swept away by the dynamic currents of an evolving world and an evolving culture." Yet we know and are exceedingly grateful for the fact that the Word of the Lord endureth forever, 1 Pet. 1, 25; and that 2 Tim. 3, 15—17 will remain true until the end of time.

THEO. LAETSCH.

The Open Bible. A Gift of the Reformation. (Tract 125.) By *William Dallmann, D. D.* Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo. 9 pages. Price, 5 cts.; 30 cts. per dozen; \$2.00 per hundred.

The Pew Views the Pulpit. By *Ewald Schuettner.* (Tract 124.) Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo. 15 pages. Price, 5 cts.; 42 cts. per dozen; \$3.00 per hundred.

Two tracts issued by our Publishing House for mass distribution. The first is a reprint of articles which appeared in the *Lutheran Witness*; the second, an essay read at the 1934 meeting of the Western District by a member of a St. Louis congregation. Both should be spread widely. In brief, terse paragraphs Dr. Dallmann shows that God indeed opened the Bible to Christians in the Reformation, as before it had become a closed Book by the machinations of the Papacy; that therefore we should value it as a gift of God. — The essay shows in plain, simple language what the Christian pew expects of the pulpit and what the pulpit must offer to the pew lest it become faithless and untrue to the purpose for which it has been established by the Lord. May God keep the occupants of our pews in that mind! Then we need not worry about the future of our Church.

THEO. HOYER.

The Motion-Picture Menace. By *Prof. Theodore Graebner, D. D.* Concordia Publishing House. 28 pages, 3½×5½. Price, 6 cts.; dozen, 60 cts.; 100, \$4.00, and postage.

We have here a reprint in pamphlet form of a series of articles published in the *Lutheran Witness* and now published for mass distribution. Congregations or societies should purchase and distribute this timely pamphlet among their own people and in public places, street-cars, etc. In the first chapter the author quotes a number of periodicals on the wickedness of the modern movie. In the second chapter he shows "What the Silver Screen Does to Our Children," while in the third he answers the question, "What should Be Our Attitude toward the Movies: 1. as Christians, 2. as citizens?" May God bless this little pamphlet!

THEO. LAETSCH.

Proceedings of the Nineteenth Convention of the Atlantic District. 1934. 72 pages. Price, 27 cts.

Dr. Theo. Graebner read an essay on "The Church's Responsibility in the Training and Development of the Pastor." He stated that the office

of the ministry, because of present-day conditions, calls for the best-prepared men we can possibly send forth and that therefore the Church should offer to the candidates for the ministry the best possible education and that the pastor himself must keep up his studies during the active ministry lest he get out of touch with present-day conditions, to that extent cutting his efficiency.

THEO. LAETSCH.

Einundsechzigster Synodalbericht des Michigan-Distrikts. 1934. 68 Seiten.
Preis: 14 Cts.

Proceedings of the Sixty-First Convention of the Michigan District.
1934. 70 pages. Price, 12 cts.

Der Michigan-Distrikt hat seinen Bericht sowohl in deutscher als in englischer Sprache erscheinen lassen. In der deutschen Ausgabe findet sich ein treffliches Referat von P. E. F. Manske über „Die Erhaltung und Regierung Gottes“, worin an der Hand des ersten Artikels in vier Thesen ausgeführt wird, daß Gott, der uns erschaffen hat, uns auch erhält und uns alles gibt, was wir zu unserm Leibes Nahrung und Notdurft bedürfen; daß er nach seiner weisen Regierung uns wider alle Fährlichkeit beschirmt und vor allem Übel behütet und bewahrt; daß er das alles tut aus lauter Güte und Barmherzigkeit; daß wir ihm dafür von Herzen danken, ihn loben, ihm dienen und gehorsam sein sollen.

Der englische Bericht enthält eine Arbeit P. A. Vinns über die Schöpfung, mit besonderer Bekämpfung der Evolutionslehre. Beide Arbeiten sind in unserer Zeit des Unglaubens und der Evolution sehr zeitgemäß und werden jedem, der sie studiert, von Nutzen sein.

T h e o. L ä t s c h.

Proceedings of the Fifteenth Convention of the English District.
1934. 63 pages. Price, 21 cts.

Prof. E. J. Friedrich concluded his essay, begun in 1933, on "The Christian Creeds" by discussing the present-day attitudes toward the Universal Creeds and the Lutheran Church and the Creeds. In our day of Modernism and unionism it is necessary that we be reminded of our duty to hold fast these marvelous confessions of the Church comprised in the Christian Creeds.

Proceedings of the Twenty-Third Convention of the Oregon and Washington District of the Ev. Luth. Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States. 1933. Order from Rev. F. Zehe, 2525 Lombard Ave., Everett, Wash. Price, 15 cts., and postage.

This record of proceedings, printed by the above-named District, contains the various routine reports of synodical boards rendered at this meeting. Great interest was evidently taken in the report of the District School Board, from which it appears that the number of schools in the District remains unchanged. President Janssen's opening address stressed that the greatest calamity which could befall mankind would be the failure of the children of God to bring the message of the redemption to a world lost in sin. The conclusion of Rev. H. H. Engelbrecht's essay on "The Missionary Activities as Recorded in the Acts, Models for Present-day Mission-work" is printed in abridged form.

THEO. HOYER.

All these reports were published by Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

From the Bible Institute Colportage Association, Chicago:—

Is He Not Able? By *Edith F. Norton*. 155 pages, 5×7½. Price, \$1.00.

From the Abingdon Press:—

Social and Religious Problems of Young People. By *Sidney A. Weston* and *S. Ralph Harlow*. 288 pages. Price, \$1.75.

From the Fleming H. Revell Company, New York, London, and Edinburgh:—

This Spring of Love. By *Agnes Sligh Turnbull*. 184 pages, 5½×8½. Price, \$2.00.

From the National Conference of Jews and Christians, 289 Fourth Ave., New York City:—

New Relationships with Jews and Catholics. Discussion Outlines for Protestant Groups. By *Mrs. Abel J. Gregg*. 64 pages, 5×8. Price, 25 cts.

Zeitschrift für systematische Theologie. Herausgegeben von *Karl Stange*, *H. Althaus*, *A. Köberle*, *G. Wehrung*, *Bertelsmann*, *Gütersloh*. 12. Jahrgang; 2. Vierteljahrsheft. 198 Seiten. — *F. Hahn*: „Luthers Auslegungsgrundsätze und ihre theologischen Voraussetzungen“; *F. Traub*: „Die neue Fassung von Karl Heims ‚Glaube und Denken‘“; *A. Köberle*: „Wort, Sakrament und Kirche im Luthertum“; *E. G. Sullin*: „Das geistliche Amt im Neuen Testament“; *F. Holmeström*: „Das eschatologische Denken der Gegenwart“. Eingefandte Literatur.

Luthertum. Herausgegeben von *J. Bergdoll*, *S. Schöffel*, *H. Meiser* und andern. Deichert, Leipzig. Neue Folge der „Neuen Kirchlichen Zeitschrift“. 45. Jahrgang. Heft 12. 32 Seiten. — *W. Künneht*: „Das Formenproblem der evangelischen Kirche“; *D. H. Rebe*: „Die Kontingenz der Existenz“; *E. Straßer*: „Kann das Alte Testament Glauben werden?“; *H. Schomerus*: „Randbemerkungen“; *J. Bergdoll*: Zeitschriften- und Bücherbericht.

Theologie der Gegenwart. Herausgegeben von *D. Eberhard*, *W. Eichrodt*, *G. Grühmacher* und andern. Deichert, Leipzig. 28. Jahrgang. Heft 11. 12. 34 Seiten. — *H. Strathmann*: „Übersicht über die neuesten Erscheinungen auf dem Gebiet des Neuen Testaments. 1. Allgemeine Hilfsmittel; 2. Urchristentum und Religionsgeschichte; 3. Evangelienforschung; 4. zum Apostolos“; 5. das älteste Christentum; 6. katholische Theologie; 7. zur religiösen Wirrnis.“

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