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L. Fuerbringer Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

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Book Review - Literatur

All books reviewed in this periodical may be procured from or through Concordia Publishing House, 3558 S. Jefferson Ave., St. Louis, Mo.

A Commentary on Exodus. By Herman J. Keyser, B.D. Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Mich. 451 pages, 5½×8. Price, \$3.50.

This commentary, we are assured by the publishers, "is an aid to bulwarking the faith of the fathers." . . . "Its purpose is to establish the credibility and authenticity of the passages in the book long considered untrustworthy." The author rejects the theories of radical criticism of the now almost defunct Wellhausen school. He calls attention to many archeological discoveries and to a number of passages in the text which are incompatible with radical criticism. Yet he is far from accepting the Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch as we have it in our Bible. In his opinion the Hexateuch is a composite book. "Early contemporaneous records were collected and arranged first by the Priest, known as the priestly strata, which, according to the present writer, began with the official installation by Moses on Sinai." (P. 15.) Joel and other eighth-century prophets got their information and learned their art of writing from the "school of the priests located at the various centers both in the North and the South," who in turn obtained their teachings from "the records made by their predecessors. These records included our early books - Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Joshua." . . . "If Exodus did exist, minus minor glosses, before the age of Samuel, how does it happen that the prophet historians, J from the South and E from the North, have their works incorporated in the book as we now have it?" The author informs us that after the division of the kingdom "there was begun what is common to all peoples, a partisan history of Israel taken from the original scroll of Exodus, some of which we have incorporated in our Hexateuch, but a good deal of which has been lost. Likewise, in the South, the prophet historians known as J set about adapting the original scroll to partisan purposes just like their brethren of the North whom they detested. Somehow, the original scroll was lost, so that at some period preceding Deuteronomy, probably after the fall of Samaria in 721 B. C., editors known as Rje [the compiler of the J and E records] began to rewrite the book from the materials at hand. These were J. E. and P. The impulsion to do this must have been great. What caused it, except but for the apparent unholiness of Israel, we do not know. . . . The present writer feels that Rje judiciously selected sections from P, J, and E, properly to appease both the priestly and prophetic parties, who would have considerable followings, as well as differentiating between J and E to give additional evidence, witness, and what a later writer called a 'cloud of witnesses' " (pp. 41, 42).

Deuteronomy is placed "sometime earlier than 621 B. C.," p. 19. Ezekiel chapters 40—48 came from an author "who lived during the profuse apocalyptic era (c. 175 B. C.), against whom the author of Eccle-

siastes cries out, 'And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end'" (p. 22). He takes this position because thereby "the much maligned priests, preexilic and postexilic, will have been restored to the honorable position in scholarly circles that they have always held in religious circles" (p. 22). Still, the author speaks of divine inspiration and calls Exodus the Word of God. How he can combine the two positions is beyond us.

The author constantly compares the Septuagint and the Samaritan Pentateuch and gives valuable information on many archeological discoveries which throw light on the geographical and historical references in Exodus. Throughout the book the Reformed, and particularly the Calvinistic, theology is in evidence; so, e.g., in the note on chap. 7:3-7: "Pharaoh will be obdurate, stubborn, made so by Jehovah's progressive measures." (P. 129.) On chap. 7:13 he writes: "'Hardened Pharaoh's heart' is equivalent to 'made him stubborn,' adamant." The word used here by Moses does not bear this translation. It means "was or became hard." The proof-reading has been rather loosely done.

THEO. LAETSCH

Kommentar zum Alten Testament. Herausgegeben von Prof. D. Ernst Sellin. Band XVI, 3: "Die Klagelieder", übersetzt und erklärt von D. Dr. Wilshelm Rudolph. A. Deichertsche Berlagsbuchhandung, Leipzig. 74 Seiten 6½×9½. Preis: RM. 3.50.

Derfelbe Berfaffer, bem wir bie Auslegung bes Buches Ruth in bem befannten großen Gellinichen Rommentar jum Alten Teftament verbanten, hat auch bie Alagelieber behandelt, und mas wir im Maiheft, S. 392 f., über feine Erflarung bes Budleins Ruth fagten, gilt auch im allgemeinen von feiner Arbeit über bie Alagelieber. Die Behandlung ift biefelbe: erft folgt auf gwolf Ceiten eine Ginleitung, Die bie üblichen ifagogifden Fragen erörtert, bann folgt eine wortliche übersehung in besonderem Drud, philologische Bemertungen in tleinerem Drud und ichliehlich bie Auslegung. In ben einleitenben Fragen behandelt er bie in ben Alageliebern angewandte Runftform bes Alphabetismus, infolgebeffen jeber Bers ber einzelnen Rapitel mit einem Buchftaben bes hebraifden Alphabets ber Reihe nach beginnt und barum jebes Rapitel 22 Berfe nach ber Bahl bes hebrais ichen Alphabets umfagt (bas britte Rapitel 66 Berfe, weil immer brei Berfe mit bemfelben Buchftaben beginnen). Er weift mit Recht ab, bag biefe alphabetifchen Alrofticha aus bem Schulunterricht ftammen, um bas Alphabet einzuüben, und fagt: "Daß bie Rlagelieber für ben Unterricht gebichtet feien, weil ber Lehrer mit feinen Schülern jugleich ben Stil ber Leichenflage einüben wollte, macht aus ben mit Bergblut gefdriebenen Liebern voll fcweren Ernftes eine bloge Stils übung." (C. 3.) Doch meint ber Berfaffer, bag ber Ginn biefer Runftbichtung bis heute noch nicht befriedigend ertfart fei. Aber ift nicht die alte Auffaffung, bag biefe Form bon ben Dichtern (Bf. 9 und 10, 25, 34, 37, 111, 112, 119, 145, Spr. 31, 10-31) gewählt fei, um die betreffenden Stude als etwas Bollftanbiges abjurunden und barum bie Bahl bes Alphabets erfcopft, burchaus befriedigenb? Der Berfaffer nimmt für bie Entftehung ber Rlagelieber bie richtige tonferbatibe Beit an, nämlich balb nach ber Berftorung Jerufalems, im Jahre 587, und jeben: falls langere Beit bor ber Bieberherftellung ber Stabt, im Jahre 536. Er führt meiftens in guter Beife in bas Berftanbnis ber Lieber ein, loft fcheinbare Biber: fprüche und hebt mit Recht als etwas Wichtiges hervor, daß brei ber fünf Rapitel 554

(1, 2, 5) mit einem Gebet schließen und auch bas britte und vierte mit einem hoffnungsbollen Ausblid enben. In bezug auf ben Berfaffer meint er freilich, daß es nicht Jeremias fein tonne, fonbern ein Gefinnungsgenoffe bes großen Propheten; aber die Grunde, Die er anführt und auf Die wir jest nicht naber eingehen tonnen, ericheinen nicht burchichlagenb, und bie alte überlieferung, bag Beremias ber Berfaffer fei, bie icon Ausbrud gefunden bat in ber uralten, wahricheinlich aus bem Bebraifden ftammenden überfchrift ber Septuaginta, "Und es gefchah, nachbem Israel gefangen und Jerufalem bermuftet war, feste fic Beremia weinend nieder und bichtete folgenbes Rlagelied über Berufalem und fagte", die auch in neuerer Zeit bon Reil, b. Orelli und anbern bertreten wirb, hat guten Grund. Rudolf hebt felbft hervor, bag mit Sprachbergleichung und Sprachftatiftit, bie manche Ausleger für Beremia, andere gegen ihn als Berfaffer in Unfpruch nehmen, nur "wenig angufangen ift" (S. 8). Bei ber über: fetjung berudfichtigt er immer auch bas Metrum, und als überfchriften und Inhaltsangabe der fünf Rapitel hat er folgende Stichworte: Rap. 1: "Siehe wie ich verachtet bin!" Rap. 2: "Jehovah hat's getan"; Rap. 3: "Das Borbilb Jere: mias"; Rap. 4: "Riemand blieb berichont"; Rap. 5: "Lagt uns werben wie früher." Dieje Stichworte find gang gutreffend außer bei Rab. 3; ba tonnen wir bem Berfaffer nicht beiftimmen, wenn er meint, bag Jeremia hier bon fich felbft rebe, fondern das "ich" ift tollettiv gu faffen und geht auf die Ginwohner Jerus falems, wie barum auch biefes "ich" mit "wir" abwechfelt. Bgl. B. 1-24 und 48-66 und ben "wir"=Abichnitt B. 40-47. Gut wird bie theologische Seite, bak wir fo fagen, ber Rlagelieber betont, bag neben bem berbienten Gericht Gottes über fein Bolf und feine Stadt immer auch bie gottliche Unade herborgehoben wird, die Gott einem buffertigen Bolle ichenten will; und diefe Buge ift nicht eine Leiftung, sondern eine Gabe Gottes. Bgl. Kap. 5, 21; 3, 22—24. 31—33. Wir fchagen biefen furggefagten Rommentar als ein Bert über ein fleines, bielfach jurudgefettes Bud ber Beiligen Schrift, bas auf ber Sohe ber Beit fteht, wenn wir auch manche Musftellungen machen muffen. Uns bleibt eben immer noch als wertvollfter neuerer Rommentar berjenige von Reil. Und was bas Buch ber Rlagelieber unferer Beit gu fagen bat, ift bei anberer Gelegenheit ausgeführt worden. Ugl. Concordia Theological Monthly, 4 (1933) 161.

Q. Fürbringer

The Holy Spirit. A Study of His Person, Ministry and Operations. By J. C. Massee, D. D., LL. D. Fleming H. Revell, New York. 144 pages, 5½×7¾. Price, \$1.25.

This monograph contains twelve chapters on the person and the work of the Holy Spirit, covering both the Old and the New Testament. The first five chapters broadly treat the doctrinal and the last seven the practical aspect of the subject. The author distinguishes, and rightly so, between the Holy Spirit's gift of using unlearned languages and the special gift of "tongues," found, for example, in the Corinthian Church. The reviewer, however, cannot agree with the writer in saying that the "Holy Spirit is not given in answer to the prayers of men" (p. 15), for that is clearly proved by Luke 11:13, despite the arguments to the contrary. When it is said that on Pentecost "the kingdom of Israel, an earthly kingdom, has given place to the kingdom of God on earth" (p. 79), the spiritual nature of God's kingdom is ignored, and the meaning of Pentecost is misunderstood. To describe the Baptism of

the Holy Ghost as the "communication of God's life and nature to man" (p. 125) is, to say the least, ambiguous. The Pentecostal outpouring of the Holy Spirit must not be identified with the unio mustica, nor must that union be taken in a pantheistic sense. Other statements likewise challenge criticism; the book demands discriminate study. Nevertheless, it sets forth in a helpful outline a much-neglected but very important doctrine, and pastors who wish to place more emphasis on this doctrine by special lectures will gain much by its perusal, especially from its fine outlines and its practical applications. Dr. Massee is a well-known Fundamentalist, connected as guest lecturer with the Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, and a ranking evangelist, Bible-teacher, and author. He is certainly right when in the Introduction he declares: "There is a distressing and hurtful ignorance which now seeks to turn the ministry of the Spirit away from the things of Christ to the experiences of men, real or supposed" (p. 6). J. THEODORE MUELLER

Cthif ber Liebe. Bon Wilhelm Lütgert. Berlag C. Bertelsmann, Gutersloh. 294 Seiten 61/2×91/2. Preis: Rartoniert: RM. 9; gebunden: RM. 11.

"Die driftliche Religion ift bie Religion ber Liebe." Go bebt bies Sobelieb ber Liebe an. Das foll nicht befagen, bag bie Liebe bie Saubtfache in ber driftlichen Religion ift. Denn ber gweite Sag lautet: "Das Evangelium ift bie Botfcaft bon ber Liebe Gottes, Die in Chrifto 3Gfu offenbar geworben ift." Der Sinn unfers Buches ift: Weil bas Chriftentum Die Religion bes Glaubens ift, fo weiß nur bie driftliche Religion etwas von ber mahren Liebe, ber Frucht bes Glaubens; und im Chriftentum tommt bie Liebe gu ihrem gottlichen Recht. Und nun wird in meifterhafter Beije bas Lob ber driftlichen Liebe gefungen. Es wird bargelegt, worin bas innere Befen ber Liebe befteht und wie fie allen Zugenben ben rechten Behalt gibt und barum alle menfchlichen Berhaltniffe und Tatigleiten abeln und bertfaren fann. Der Berfaffer (ber bor Drudlegung bes Buches aus biefem Leben gefchieben ift), ein Deifter auf bem Gebiet ber Philofophie und Pfphologie, hat es verftanden, Die in Diefen Biffenfchaften herrichenden Begriffe feinem Thema nutbar ju maden. Dandjes babon ftimmt allerbings nicht. Aber im allgemeinen fann man fagen, baß ber, ber fich bas aneignet, was bier auf Grund ber Beiligen Schrift und nach Unleitung bes Rleinen Ratchismus in fo einfader, ebler Sprache über bas Befen und Birten ber Liebe gefagt wirb, ein berebter Brediger ber Liebe fein wirb.

Wir geben einige Proben. "Die christliche Ethit faßt sich zusammen in das Liebesgebot. Es ist das eine Gebot, das alle Gebote in sich schließt. Liebe ist die Erfüllung des Geseißes. Sie ist der Grundwille, der alle Pslichten erfüllt, alles Gute umfaßt. Liebe ist das Gute, die eine und einzige Augend." (S. 1.) "Die Liebe beginnt mit Achtung. Darin, daß man den Rächsten in seiner ins dividuellen persönlichen Eigenart gelten läßt und anerlennt, besteht das Berständenis für ihn, und dies wird als die erste und größte Wohltat empfunden. Wer sich verstanden fühlt, ist dantbar. . . Wenn es richtig ist, daß alle Liebe auf Gegenliebe rechnet und um sie wirdt, so versährt sie nicht nach der Regel Do ut des, sondern sie sucht und schäft auch in der Gabe des andern ihn selbst. . . Die Liebe ist etwas anderes als die "schenlende Liebe". Denn mit dieser verbindet sich ein überlegenheitsgefühl, ein Selbstewußtsein, durch welches der Rächste herabz geset wird zu einem bedürftigen Empfänger, der in sich selbste nichts ist und

bon bem Geber bollig abhangig ift. . . . Liebe muß bor allen Dingen fabig fein, gu beobachten, gu horen, gu ichweigen und gu berfteben. Die überlegenheit zeigt fich nicht barin, bag man fich felbft ausspricht und mitteilt, sonbern bag man es berfteht, ben Rachften dazu zu bringen, daß er fich ausspricht und mitteilt. Dies wird nicht burch irgendeine padagogifche ober feelforgerliche Technit erreicht, fon: bern allein burch bas unwillfürliche, unreflettierte Intereffe an ben anbern. Wie im gangen geiftigen Leben bes Menschen, so ift auch in ber Liebe bie erfte, tieffte, urfprüngliche Fähigleit bie Empfänglichfeit, ein Alt bes Bernehmens. . . . Der Grundzug ber driftlichen Ethit befteht barin, bag alle Tat Liebe fein foll. Sowenig ber Menfch um feiner felbft willen ba ift, fo wenig ift es feine Tätigfeit." (S. 90 ff.) Aus bem Rabitel "Demut": "Gemeinschaft ift nur bann möglich, wenn bie einzelnen, bie fich gur Gemeinschaft gusammenschließen, bereit finb, fic einzuordnen. . . Die Ginfchrantung bes Geltungsftrebens ift erft bann Demut, wenn fie auf einer Ginfdrantung ber Gelbftichatung beruht. Das innerfte Wefen aller Liebe ift eine Schätzung bes Rachften. Schon barum ift bie Liebe Denn bie Schätung bes Rächften bearenst bie Gelbftichatung. Bebe Celbftüberichatung führt gur Unterschätzung ber anbern, bas beißt, ju einem lieblofen Urteil über fie. . . . Die Demut gehört als Grundhaltung bes Menichen jum Ebangelium 3Gfu. Gie beruht auf ber Erlenntnis ber Wertlofige leit, ber Entbehrlichfeit alles menichlichen Birfens bor Gott, But. 17, 10. . . . Durch bas Evangelium bon ber Rechtfertigung bes Gunbers allein aus Glauben ohne die Werte des Gefetes wird alles Rühmen ausgeschloffen. . . . Der Rampf gegen die driftliche Ethit in der Wegenwart richtet fich befonders gegen die drifts liche Demut wie gegen bas Reufcheitsgebot. Wie bas Reufchheitsgebot, fo fei auch bas Demutsideal unnatürlich, eine hemmung ber normalen, ungebrochenen Saltung des gefunden Menfchen. Demut fei Schwäche. . . . Das Befenntnis ber Demut lautet nicht: 3ch bin nichts, fondern: 3ch bin alles durch und barum für Gott." (S. 145 ff.)

Allen Ausführungen des Buches tann man freilich nicht beistimmen. Auf Seite 152 heißt es: "Darum nennt Paulus die Enade Rechtfertigung. Der begnadigte Sünder ist gerecht und darum aufrecht." Was soll das heißen? Seite 194: "Aus vergebener Sünde entsteht Liebe. Durch sie wird auch der Fall des Menschen eingeordnet in seine Erlösung." Das ist nicht forrelt geredet. Seite 29: "Die Erlösung besteht in der Erwedung des Willens zur Liebe." Das ist falsch. Auch dies: "Der Glaube an den unsüchtbaren Gott entsteht im Kinde dadurch, daß es Erwachsene sieht, die Gott als Realität behandeln, besonders im Gebet." (S. 193.)

Swedish Contributions to Modern Theology. By Nels F. S. Ferré. Harper & Brothers, New York. 250 pages, 6×8½. Price, \$2.50.

We are sure that this book will be warmly welcomed in many theological circles of our country, since it offers a comprehensive, yet fairly brief and intelligible view of the present-day predominant trends in modern Swedish theology. The author, himself the son of a Swedish pastor, is now professor-elect of theology and philosophy at the Andover Newton Theological School. A Liberal, he nevertheless endeavors to evaluate the positive elements in modern Swedish theology, represented especially by the theological school of the well-known Lund University; though it may be questioned whether a professed Modernist can duly estimate and appreciate conservative emphases in their whole scope.

Broadly speaking, Swedish theology, like ancient Gaul, may be divided into three parts: a distinctly liberal wing, represented by the Uppsala school; a distinctly conservative type, represented by the Highchurchly Rosendahl movement and the pietistic Schartau movement; and, lastly, a mediating trend, championed by the Lundensian school, in which among others such men as Aulén, Nygren, and Bring are outstanding. According to Ferré "the Lundensian theology is best understood as the resurgence of historical Christianity, as a reaction to the indefiniteness of a confused Liberalism" (p. 23). At the same time, while "Lundensian theology is a return from all relativisms to the absolute assurance of religion," it is not a return to "the Biblical literalism of the past. In this respect the movement represents a compromise with traditionalism and is suspect in certain orthodox circles as 'radical to the point of stagnation'" (p. 29). Modern mediating theology in Sweden may be said to go back to Luther by way of Barthian and similar present-day German theologies. From Luther it borrows only its necessary major premises: substantially, it is a "philosophical theology." "Theology is a strictly scientific discipline with a logicaldescriptive method. Its field is the object of faith which it finds in the positive religions" (p. 46). It insists upon being recognized as a "science in good and regular standing" (p. 47). Preeminent in this theology is "the relation of God to man" (p. 95 ff.), and here the major premise is that God is agape [Luther: "eitel Liebe"] (p. 105). It is "His essentia to love" (p. 109). In contrast with agape stands eros, "man's effort to ascend" (p. 119). Without going any farther into details on this score, we may say that we here have a Religionsphilosophie, which loses itself in endless questions and problems and thus wastes precious time, properly belonging to the study of Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, and which in the end overthrows both the sola scriptura and the sola gratia. For those who wish to acquaint themselves with present-day trends in Sweden, Ferré's book will be very helpful, though Nygren, Aulén, and others whom he quotes ought to be studied in the originals. Most of the quotations are brief and are presented out of their context, so that often they do not present a clear picture of the original. Ferré's language is sufficiently clear for the average student of theology to follow, while the subject-matter is relatively simple, for which we thank both Ferré and the theologians whom he quotes as his authorities. J. THEODORE MUELLER

Instructions for Non-Catholics before Marriage. Rev. Anthony L. Ostheimer. The Dolphin Press, Philadelphia, Pa. 232 pages, 4×5½. Price, 60 cts.

These Instructions are intended for non-Catholics who are contemplating marriage with Catholics and present the chief doctrines and practices of the Roman Catholic Church from the viewpoint of the inquiring non-Catholic. Pastors who have no text-book on Roman Catholic doctrine may welcome this brief compend on Roman doctrine. The booklet is of interest especially because it clearly shows Rome's position on mixed marriages. Canon 1064 in the New Code Canon Law (1917) reiterates Rome's prohibition of entering into a mixed marriage

without episcopal dispensation. Such dispensation is granted only when the non-Catholic has given the ante-nuptial promises, viz.: 1. that he will recognize the Catholic principle of the indissolubility of marriage; 2. that he will not prevent the Catholic party from exercising his faith; 3. that all children, of either sex, born to the couple shall be baptized and brought up in the Catholic faith, even though the Catholic party should be taken away by death; 4. that marriage shall be performed before a priest. (Pp. 11-15.) This fourfold promise requires not only the signature but also the intention of living up to the promise. (We understand that the Milwaukee diocese requires the promise to be in legal form.) The third promise is motivated as follows: The Catholic Church is the only true Church and must demand that Catholic children are raised as Catholics; and since most non-Catholics believe that all churches are equally good, they will find it quite easy to sign this pledge. It is evident from these Instructions not only that Rome is interested in having the non-Catholic party understand why the Catholic spouse observes the various Roman practices, but that Rome is determined to gain the non-Catholic for the Catholic faith before marriage is consummated. Rome understands only too well that the prenuptial promise to "join the Church after marriage" is frequently not kept and therefore makes every effort to gain the non-Catholic before marriage. F. E. MAYER

Mother's Book. Forty-two Meditations for Expectant Mothers. By Karl Ermisch. Good Samaritan Book Store, Fargo, N. Dak. 87 pages, 6×8.

This little paper-covered volume offers material for which many pastors have been waiting. It seems that many expectant mothers find it difficult to attend public services. Besides, they need, in addition to the comfort and encouragement given them by faithful pastors, the regular consolation of the Word of God. The little meditations offered here by Doctor Ermisch, a total of forty-two, will certainly serve the purpose for which they are intended, for they offer food from Scripture on the thoughts which are most likely to be found in the heart of a Christian woman during pregnancy. If, as we hope, the first edition is soon exhausted, we also hope that a subsequent printing will offer a more substantial binding for the little volume.

P. E. KRETZMANN

BOOKS RECEIVED

From the Abingdon Press, New York, Cincinnati, Chicago:

Dramatic Moments in the Life of Jesus. By Ralph P. Claggett. 168 pages. Price, \$1.00.

From the Methodist Book Concern, New York, Cincinnati, Chicago:

When Are We Patriotic? By Frances Nall. 175 pages, 5½×8½. Price, \$1.00.

From Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.:

Eighteen Chorale Improvisations for the Organ on Advent and Christmas Hymns. Composed by Martin H. Schumacher. 40 pages, 9½×12. Price, \$1.50.