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## **Book Review. - Literatur**

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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.

Religious or Christian. By O. Hallesby, Ph. D. Professor in the Independent Theological Seminary, Oslo, Norway. Translated by Clarence J. Carlsen. Augsburg Publishing House. 198 pages, 5½×7. Price, \$1.00.

The title of this book, Religious or Christian, is meant to indicate the fundamental difference between Christianity and the other so-called religions. The first two chapters and the last one deal with this subject directly. "The history of religion, the psychology of religion, and the philosophy of religion have all sought to bring Christianity down to the same level as religion in general, in all essentials. . . . They are in perfect accord with reference to one thing: there is no fundamental difference between Christianity and other religions." (P. 172.) In refuting this thesis of the Liberals, the author calls attention to "Luther's Biblical view both of man's sin and of God's justifying and new-creating grace. Luther never tires of showing the fundamental difference between the natural man's self-chosen, strained religiosity, on the one hand, and the free and happy relationship to God of the regenerate soul, on the other" (p. 171), and deals specifically with one of the fundamental differences: the unreasonableness of Christianity. "Modern man no doubt feels that he encounters an intellectual cross in Christianity at nearly every step of the way.... It was the paradox of paradoxes that Christ said of Himself that He was God, John 10:33. . . . In the New Testament writings we have the source of the whole paradoxical irrational content of the faith which the Christian Church has owned, confessed, and preached throughout all these centuries." (P. 9 ff.)

The other chapters: "The Hour of Temptation," "Manly Christianity," "The Offense of the Cross," "By Grace," and "A Contrite Heart," carry out the theme more indirectly. But they present matters of supreme importance, and much of it is good Lutheran theology, presented in the author's well-known lucid, emphatic, and striking way. A few samples: "When God forgives us our sins, He does so entirely without any merit on our part; that is, there is in us no meritorious ground for it. Neither our conversion, our remorse, our prayers, our faith, or anything else in us can move God to love us and forgive us. . . . Grace is free. This implies even more, yea, much more. . . . It implies also this, that grace seeks us, goes after us, searches us out." (P. 129.) "To pray for one's future work is to 'load' time with eternity. The fact that so many of us accomplish so little during our long period of activity is due no doubt to the fact that we fire too often with blank cartridges. We do not take time to pray." (P. 56.) "It is God who makes hearts contrite. But this is a difficult task, even for God. When He created the universe with its countless solar systems, He sat calmly upon His royal throne in heaven, merely speaking the creative word. . . . But

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when He was to make contrite the little but hard heart of man, then He could not remain seated on His royal throne. He had to leave His heavenly abode, come down to our earth, become a man, suffer, and die to atone for our sins. To such great lengths did the Almighty have to go in order to make contrite the heart of man!" (P. 158.) Note also this good Lutheran statement: "Then, too, they would learn more quickly to 'believe without seeing,' to learn that which God . . . is trying to teach them, namely, to believe the Word, without feeling the workings of God's grace." (P. 150.)

But our book also contains much that is not good Lutheran theology. It is much to be regretted that a book is so widely circulated in Lutheran circles which contains the pietistic-synergistic leaven. There is the fatal distinction between awakening and conversion. It is distinctly stated on page 135: "But awakening is not the same as conversion." However, "awakening" (and "awakening" here means contrition) is described as a process by which a man is put in possession of certain spiritual powers. "He gave you the grace of awakening. He spoke to you of His love, until the sin became acrid and bitter to you." "Our awakening brings us into a heavenly superlight. . . . We meet God! The real God. We are permitted to see God as He comes to us in Christ." "Through his spiritual awakening the sinner has not only caught a glimpse of the inheritance, but he has begun to see also that he needs it." "Here we see the miraculous aspect of spiritual awakening, its new-creating power, the grace connected with such an awakening." "A connection with God has been established as a result of their awakening." (Pp. 152, 163, 137, 33, 161.) But such a one is not yet converted. However, this unconverted man is put into possession of miraculous powers. Thus: God will "let none be eternally lost without first being awakened out of their sleep in sin and having their inheritance set before them in order that they might freely decide whether to accept the inheritance and be saved or turn away and enter into eternal darkness." "As a result of the miracle of spiritual awakening he is at last ready to become a Christian." "Conversion, penitence, faith, . . . are the deliberate choice whereby, enlightened by the Spirit of God, we determine not to hinder God from performing the miracle of salvation in our lives." (Pp. 131, 135, 194. Italics by us.) To be sure, in conversion the sinner makes the right choice, by the power of God. But here it is the "awakened" sinner, who is not yet converted, that freely decides for God. And that is synergism. The unconverted man is able to make the right decision. - Much is said about "awakening." Much should be said about contrition (more or less a synonym of "awakening"); but when so much is said about contrition and in comparison so little about conversion and faith, we have the old pietistic aberration. - And what would you say about this definition of conversion: "The decision involved in conversion consists therefore really in this, that the awakened sinner surrenders himself fully to the mortifying grace of God in order thereby to be made alive in Christ"? (P. 149.) It is not the Lutheran definition that reads thus: "Now, repentance consists properly of these two parts: One is contrition, that is, terrors smiting the consciences through the knowledge of sin; the other is faith, which

is born of the Gospel, or of absolution, and believes that for Christ's sake sins are forgiven, comforts the conscience, and delivers it from terrors." (Augsburg Confession, Art. XII.) The creation of faith in the forgiveness of sins is the essence of conversion. "If any one desires to add a third [part], namely, fruits worthy of repentance, i.e., a change of the entire life and character for the better [good works, which shall and must follow conversion], we will not make any opposition." (Trigl., p. 259.) But he must not, as Professor Hallesby does, name the creation of the new life as the one important thing in conversion. It is an important thing, but it must be put where the Confession puts it: "Neither can there be true conversion or true contrition where mortification of the flesh and good fruits do not follow." (Trigl., p. 291.) Professor Hallesby is far from denying that the creation of faith makes one a Christian, but in defining conversion as he does, he betrays his pietistic bent. All through the book he gives sanctification undue prominence.-Just one more point. We had the statement: God will "let none be eternally lost without first being awakened out of their sleep in sin," etc. (P. 135.) It is repeated on page 161: "This is the unspeakably gracious aspect of our spiritual awakening, that God does not permit a sinner to enter into eternal torment without first having met God face to face." No Scriptural authority is quoted for such a statement. There is none. But our flesh thinks it would not agree with the justice and mercy of God if men were lost who never heard the Gospel. And so theologians have conceived and spread the idea that there is a possibility of salvation in "Hades" for those who did not hear the Gospel in this life. Professor Hallesby is an exponent of this view. He does not express it in this book in so many words, but it lies back of the statement that God does not permit a sinner to enter into eternal torment without first having met God face to face. This is one of the intellectual crosses Biblical theology imposes upon us: "When we see that God gives His Word at one place but not at another, . . . in these and similar questions Paul fixes a certain limit to us." (Formula of Concord; Trigl., p. 1081.) Here are questions we cannot answer. Professor Hallesby lists a large number of such intellectual crosses and warns against attempts to solve the paradoxes in Christian theology. One paradox he attempts to solve by insisting on making the statement under discussion.

#### TH. ENGELDER

# Our Knowledge of God. By John Baillie. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. 263 pages. 534×9. Price, \$2.50.

Ever since Karl Barth enunciated his peculiar, extreme tenets about God's "wholly-other-ness," thus fixing an impassable gulf between the unapproachable Creator and Sovereign and trembling, helpless man, in whom the divine image has been so utterly destroyed and the *corruptio hereditaria* has become so absolute that outside Christ he knows nothing of his Lord, he has been attacked by both Lutheran and Reformed conservatives. Ultra-Reformed Barth (and, to some extent, Barthian Brunner, too) is here challenged anew by a conservative Calvinist (for Baillie is professor of divinity in the University of Edinburgh), who defends the scientia Dei naturalis, though not in the sense of our Lutheran

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dogmaticians. Admitting a "self-disclosure" of God, he nevertheless interprets this as a "mediated immediacy"; in other words, man knows God not through the world (the ancient categories: creation, providence, the lex inscripta), but with the world, nature itself being divinely sacramental and so revealing God to every soul. Baillie, however, discards the old distinction of our dogmaticians between natura and gratia, natural religion, which is not sufficient to salvation, and revealed religion, centering in Christ, which alone can save. So also he casts aside the distinction between ratio and fides, for he suggests that there are better Christians among unbelievers than among believers, and this not in the popular sense in which the words have hardly any meaning, but in a real and literal sense. After all, however, Baillie can assert this without reaching beyond orthodox Calvinism with its fundamental tenet of the immediacy of the Spirit's operation in the heart. Zwingli thus expected to find some decent Greek and Roman heathen in heaven, and Baillie holds that, while unbelievers may not see God operative in their souls and actions, Christians may see Him there. In his argument against Barth, Baillie of course goes too far; yet his book makes interesting reading, since, contrary to most modern writers, he is clear and logical everywhere and in a strange way combines the greatest erudition with J. THEODORE MUELLER the greatest interest.

Theologifches Wörterbuch zum Neuen Teftament. In Verbindung mit 57 Celehrten herausgegeben von Gerhard Rittel. Vierter Band. Neun Lieferungen von je 64 Seiten. Verlag von W. Rohlhammer, Stuttgart. Substriptionspreis der Lieferung: RM. 2.90.

Rach längerer Beit bringen wir wieder einmal Diejes gang herborragende, einzigartige Wert jur Ungeige. Drei Banbe find vollendet. Der erfte Band, ber im September 1933 vollftändig geworben ift, umfaßt auf 793 Seiten in großem Legitonformat bie Artitel ber Buchftaben a-y; ber zweite Band, im September 1935 fertiggestellt, umfast auf 958 Geiten bie Urtitel ber Buchftaben 8-n; ber britte Band, ber anfangs 1938 herausgegeben worden ift, bringt auf 1104 Seiten bie Urtifel ber Buchftaben 0-x. Das Wert wird nach bem urfprünglichen Plan noch weiter in Lieferungen von je 64 Seiten berausgegeben - alle zwei Monate ericheint eine Lieferung -, und bie Subftription auf Die ichon erichienenen Banbe fteht noch offen. Die vorliegenden Lieferungen umfaffen bie Borte Layzavo bis μέμφομαι. Leiber ift in ben letten Monaten teine neue Lieferung in unfere Sande gelangt, mahricheinlich infolge ber Rriegsverhältniffe und bes unregels mäßigen Poftvertehrs. Wir tonnen nun, was wir früher ichon gejagt haben, nur wiederholen, daß nämlich biefes Wert besonders bedeutsam ift wegen feiner tats fächlich monographischen Bearbeitung wichtiger neutestamentlicher Begriffe. Das gilt gerade auch von ben vorliegenden Teilen. Da finden wir zum Beifpiel die wichtigen Begriffe Leyw, Loyos, exleyouau und 10 andere auf 128 Seiten ers örtert. Die Ausführungen hängen freilich oft von bem theologifchen Standpuntt ber fehr verschieden gerichteten Bearbeiter ab; aber wenn biefe tonfervativ find, ift nicht blog außerorbentlich reichhaltiges Material - wie in allen Artifeln bargeboten, fonbern auch bie rechte theologifche Bedeutung ber betreffenden Borts gruppe. Das gilt zum Beifpiel von ben 14 Bortern, bie mit Lico (Lurgov, avriλυτρον, λυτρόω, απολύτρωσις ufiv.) zufammenhängen und die von Prodich in

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Erlangen und Buchjel in Roftod bearbeitet worden find. Dasfelbe lagt fich jagen bon ber Bortgruppe pavoavo auf ben Seiten 392-466, bie in ben Sanben bon Rengstorf lag, und bon ber Bortgruppe paprúc auf ben Seiten 477-520, bie bon Strathmann in Erlangen bearbeitet worben ift. Freilich muffen wir auch biesmal einschärfen, bag bas Wert prüfenbe Lefer verlangt. Der wichtige Artifel loyog tann von jedem mit großem Rugen ftudiert werben; aber wir muffen boch fagen, bag in bem Prolog des Johannesebangeliums, Rap. 1, 17, die Anti= theje nicht ift vouog - dovog (mojaischer dovog, Thorah), sondern vouog zagis, mit andern Borten ber paulinische Gegenfag. Die Gnade und Bahr= heit ift nicht ber Loyos, fondern fie fließt aus ihm. (G. 138.) Befonders müffen wir wider mit Bebauern fagen, daß die fogenannten "wiffenschaftlichen Ergebniffe" ber höheren Rritif und ber "Quellenfcheidung" in ben biblifchen Buchern in Diefem Berle eine große Rolle fpielen und eine falfche Lehre von ber gottlichen Offen= barung hervorrufen. Wir hatten fürglich Beranlaffung, in dem ichon fertiggestell= ten britten Banbe unter bem Worte writw bie Rubrit "Der Schöpfungsglaube im Ulten Teftament" nachzuschlagen. Uber ba wird ber gefährliche Irrtum auss geführt, bag wir in ben erften Rapiteln ber Bibel nicht eine unmittelbare Offen= barung, bie Gott ben erften Denichen gegeben bat, haben, fondern eine febr mittelbare, bie nur teimartig in ber "Offenbarung ber Gefchichte", bas beißt, ber Beichichte 3sraels, enthalten war und bon bort jur Entfaltung getommen und nachträglich an ben Unfang ber Bibel gestellt worben ift. Darum foll auch bas erfte Bort ber Bibel "Um Unfang ichuf Gott Simmel und Erbe", bon ber Offen= barung aus geschen, nicht bas erste Wort ber Bibel fein, vielmehr ift "bas primäre Beugnis des Alten Teftaments bas von bem geschichtsmächtigen Gott, bem Bott Abrahams, Ijaats und Jafobs, bem Gott, ber bas Bolt Israel aus Rappten burch bas Rote Deer und ben Jordan in bas Gelobte Land führte, bem Gott, ber bie Rriege Israels leitete. Es geht im Alten Teftament nicht bon ber Schöpfung jur Geschichte, fondern umgetehrt, alfo nicht: ber Schöpfer (Subjett) ift Jahme (bas beißt, ber Gott Israels), fonbern: Jahme (Subjett) ift ber Chöpfer". (III, 1004.) Demgegenüber muß feftgehalten werben wie Dr. 9. Beters in einer Befprechung Diefer Gache in ber "Eb.=Luth. Freifirche" jagte, bag "es nach biblifcher Offenbarung tatfächlich von ber Schöpfung jur Gefchichte geht, bag in ber Bibel querft Gott als Schöpfer (Elohim) und bann erft bes weiteren Bott als Bott 3sraels (Jahme) geoffenbart ift. Bieberholen wir basjelbe mit ben Borten Otto Bebers, ,Bibelfunde bes Ulten Teftaments': ,Die Bibel beginnt nicht mit bem Gott, ber erwählt, jondern mit bem, ber ber Schöpfer und barum ber hErr ift, ber erwählen tann." Damit ift aber auch zugleich bas andere im Begenjat ju bem Entwidlungsgebanten bes "Theologifchen Börterbuches" von Offenbarung und Glauben im Alten Teftament feftzuhalten: Die Offenbarung ber Schöpfungswahrheiten im Alten Testament ift nicht eine "Offenbarung in ber Befdichte' und bamit eine Offenbarung, bie erft aus ber Befchichte gefloffen und in ihrer Entwidlung von ber Gefchichte 3sraels abhängig ift, fondern eine Offen= barung bor aller Geichichte, eine Offenbarung im Parabies. Much nach bem Fall hat fich gegen fpäter ber Bertehr Gottes mit ben Denfchen noch in unmittel= barer Offenbarung vollzogen (vgl. 1 Dof. 3, 8 ff.; 7, 16; 11, 18), fo baß fie gang unabhängig bon ber Offenbarung in ber Gefcichte 3sraels mar." Uber wir wies berholen, bag in teinem andern Berte fo ungeheuer viel Material zufammen= getragen ift wie in diefem Börterbuch und bag es barum wohl bie größte theo: logifche Bublitation ber Gegenwart ift, bie in ber gangen theologifchen Welt 718

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gebraucht wird. Ein indijcher Miffionar, der zugleich doctor philosophiae und doctor theologiae ift, fcpreibt: "Das "Theologifche Borterbuch" ift ein hilfs: mittel, bas mich immer wieber mit Dant erfullt. Wer es richtig ju gebrauchen berfteht, wer bie Lieferungen fortlaufend in fich aufnimmt und fich bineinarbeitet, fo bag er fich barin .wie ju Saufe' fühlt, ber befint in biefem Borterbuch eine gange Bucherei neuteftamentlicher Auslegung. Die fchlichten, fchweren Banbe geboren ju ben Schäten meiner fleinen Sanbbucherei. Aber auch fie find nicht unges fährdet. Wenn ihnen auch nicht ,bie Motten und ber Roft' brohen, fo warten bafür Schimmel und weiße Ameifen nur barauf, auch an ihnen ihr Berftorungs: wert auszurichten. Sier in bem feuchten Rlima ber Weftfufte Subindiens lernt man, fein herz nicht an Bücher ju hängen, lernt man gleichgültig werben gegen jede Urt von Berftörung ber äußeren Buchgeftalt. Da ,fcmigtt bie Farbe bes Einbands aus, bejonders bei ben englifchen Büchern; ba fchimmelt jebe Stelle, wo ber Buchbinder Leim genommen hat. Go werden bie meiften Bucher unans fehnlich und häßlich. Uber ju ben wenigen Buchern, die felbft bem Rlima ber Dalabarlüfte widerftehen tonnen, Die alfo nicht ichimmeln, gehort unfer Borters buch. Das macht den Umgang mit ihm auch äußerlich jur Freude."

2. Fürbringer

The Final Home of the Redcemed. By Frank S. Weston, M. A., D. D. Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Mich. 64 pages, 5×7%. Price, 35 cts.

We are reviewing this booklet only because our readers want to be kept informed also concerning the strange phenomena that appear in the theological field. This booklet makes dizzy reading. Dr. Weston, a former professor at the Gordon School of Theology in Boston, places the final home of the redeemed on this earth. He does not like "the old hymn": "With Thee we'll reign, with Thee we'll rise and kingdoms gain beyond the skies." For "heaven is for God and the angels." But "the earth hath He given to the children of men," Ps. 115:16. "Mark these words. So far as revelation shows, no other home is prepared for man." "The earth abideth forever. Wonderful changes are to take place. But it will still be earth. There will be hills and valleys, mountains and rivers. The material earth is not to cease to exist." Yes, material. "In this place of eternal blessedness there will be ground to walk upon, scenes of luxuriousness to delight the corporeal senses. . . . We shall walk forever in a land replenished with sensible delights and those sensible glories which will be most profusely scattered over the new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." "When a person is fully redeemed, he will have a material body." And "strip heaven of all vegetable and animal life, and its most attractive features are gone. Such a world would be no heaven." We get another whirl when Dr. Weston offers this argument: "In man there continues the love for the place where he was born. It is a human instinct. It is right that we should so feel. Home is never forgotten. The earth is our home. Here we were born; here we die. Here we shall spend eternity." "Is it not a fact that the average Christian of our day wants to stay in this world as long as he can?" Next the Scriptureproof. The statement "Animals share with man immortal life" is proved by Ps. 36:6: "O Lord, Thou preservest man and beast." Another whirl: "'No more sea.' By the disappearance of the sea the earth will become

an enlarged habitation. The enormous space now occupied by the restless ocean will furnish accommodation for untold millions." However, "it is not improbable that rivers may continue." A final whirl: "The higher management and control of the world will be in the hands, first, of Christ Himself and under Him in the hands of men - of men once like the mortal sojourners they govern, but now glorified like their Lord, and now living amid their mortal kindred as princes and kings." (Mortal sojourners? In the millennium the saints govern mortals. That makes sense. But how can Dr. Weston find mortals on his new earth, where "there shall be no more death"?) - Luther is once quoted, on page 27. But Luther, though he did teach "transformation," distinctly states that "all that which belongs to the substance of these temporal things shall cease" (VIII: 1222. See also p. 1187 f. I: 80.) - Dr. Weston is not quite consistent when he stresses the word "earth" in the Scriptural phrase "a new heaven and a new earth." If he insists on being literal, what will he do with the "new heaven"? Bibliotheca Sacra is consistent and finds a use both for the new heaven and the new earth. "Israelites, as a nation, have their citizenship now and their future destiny centered only in the earth, reaching on to the New Earth which is yet to be, while Chrisstians have their citizenship and future destiny centered only in heaven extending on into the New Heavens that are yet to be." (1934, April, p. 147.) TH. ENGELDER

Psychology and Pastoral Work. By Eric S. Waterhouse, M. A., D. D. Cokesbury Press, Nashville, Tenn. 316 pages, 6×834. Price, \$2.50.

"No man was made a better minister by knowing the theory of psychology alone, but many a man has been made far more effective by being able to bring his knowledge of psychology into relationship with his work," says the author on page 13. He strongly advises all pastors to devote much of their time to the careful study of psychology. "Those whose college days were innocent of psychology will at least have this advantage, if now they take up this study, that this young science grows so quickly that it soon outgrows its clothes. [!] Those who start now will at least see psychology in modern garb, not in the raiment of twenty or thirty years ago. The minister who wishes to study psychology would be well advised to obtain tuition. A good correspondence course is better than nothing." (P.13 f.) If that is impossible, he advises to begin with a standard text-book of general psychology. Unfortunately, most textbooks on psychology and, I dare say, most correspondence courses are more or less at loggerheads with Biblical Christianity. The book under review is no exception. We read: "When verbal inspiration was an accepted doctrine, the close study of the sacred tongues was a necessary sequel." (P.12.) "We still educate our ministry as if the chief need were to know God as the Jews and early Christians saw Him." (P. 13.) "Increasingly I am coming to see that the sinfulness of sin lies in the suffering and injury it causes to others. Some sex offenses stand condemned at once by that criterion. Others are much less serious." (P.254.) As an example he lists the case of a man who was living with a woman not his wife, although both were church-members. "It was

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a story so pitiful that the minister could not bring himself to refuse to them the membership both strongly desired to keep. I think he was right." (P. 255.) "The way of union lies, not by trying to find doctrinal bases of union, but by common service. If the churches would act together, we should have all the advantages of union without needing to change any one's creed." (P. 306.)

We regret that the author takes this attitude toward Biblical Christianity and even common decency; for the pages of his book abound in practical and helpful suggestions and offer many a sound advice with regard to the pastor's preparation for his work and his approach to various classes of people he is sure to meet. From his stimulating chapter on sermon preparation and delivery we quote only one brief paragraph on the use of notes or manuscripts: "Lessons can be read. They are the words of others. One's own words are always more effective when directly spoken. A sermon is an appeal. It is personal, meant to have a definite result, to obtain a response of some kind from the hearers. One can understand a man who writes a proposal of marriage and sends it, but surely no man ever produced a manuscript from his pocket and read his proposal! It is hardly less unfitting to read a sermon meant to woo men and women to righteousness and God. Yet the practice is common." (P. 218.) At the close of this paragraph he tells the pastors who read through sheer laziness in order to save the trouble of getting a sermon ready for delivery: "To these, my advice is short - resign the habit or the ministry!"

The book may be used to good advantage by pastors who will supply the proper Christian background, the lack of which is unfortunately very apparent in almost every chapter of the book. TH. LAETSCH

#### **BOOKS RECEIVED**

#### From the Westminster Press, Philadelphia:

Getting Along Together. A Study in Christian Adult-Youth Relationships for Personal Reading and Discussion Groups. By Percy R. and Myrtle H. Hayward. 56 pages,  $5 \times 7\frac{1}{2}$ .

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

When Life Seems to Pass Us By. Daily Devotional Readings from July 1 to August 18, 1940. By Richard A. Jesse. 63 pages. Price, 5 cts. per copy, postpaid, and \$3.00 per hundred, postage extra.

Die Rechte deiner Gerechtigkeit. Ps. 119, 7. Kurze Andachten fuer die Zeit vom 1. Juli bis zum 18. August 1940. Von Karl Wyneken. 59 Seiten. Preis: 5 Cts.; das Hundert \$3.00, Porto extra.

Concordia Collection of Sacred Choruses and Anthems for More Ambitious Choral Organizations. No. 55: "Behold, I Stand at the Door." Mixed and treble choir. By Wauer-Buszin. 9 pages,  $7 \times 10$ %. Price, 35 cts.

Sacred Solos. No. 14: "The Lord Be with You." Medium. By H.A. Polack. One page, 94×124. Price, 20 cts.