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Book Review. - Literatur

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Book Review

All books reviewed in this periodical may be procured from or through Concordia Publishing House, 3558 S. Jefferson Ave., St. Louis 18, Mo.

America, Turn to Christ! By Walter A. Maier. Lutheran Hour Messages, Easter to Christmas 1943. 32 and 341 pages, 5×7½. Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo., 1944. \$1.75.

Christ, Set the World Aright! By Walter A. Maier. Lutheran Hour Messages, New Year to Pentecost 1945. 33 and 377 pages, 5×7½. Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo., 1945. \$1.75.

Each of these volumes brings introductory summaries of the Lutheran Hour season covered by the enclosed addresses. Dr. Maier employs a unique method of presentation in that he operates at the microphone with a script almost twice the necessary proportions, which he then condenses as he reads. The printed volumes of his sermons bring the complete manuscript.

A study of Dr. Maier's sermons reveals a deference, in several respects, to standard Lutheran homiletical practice. The sermons employ texts, which are carefully utilized to provide the outline and scaffolding and are copiously quoted. The sermons liberally employ other Biblical extracts. Without exception they express the atonement through Jesus Christ.

The uniqueness of Dr. Maier's preaching, to judge by these volumes, is a trait which is at once a strength and a disadvantage. This is his simplicity of thought. The speaker operates with a brief series of standard applications. The Gospel message is directed to the solution of outstanding and easily recognized problems in personal life, in the home, in education, in citizenship, and in the Church. The devices for achieving this application are also simple and standard. They are: a frequent hortatory challenge; liberal allusion to current events as parallels and suggestion; direct and vigorous sketching in of the negative. The latter, to this reviewer, assumes a more helpful perspective in the extended bulk of the printed sermons than seems apparent from the reactions of some of Dr. Maier's hearers to his spoken messages. In other words, Dr. Maier's proverbial militancy is in these books ever directed to the conveying of the Gospel.

Dr. Maier's trend to simplification at times creates the illusion of mass persuasion. The printed volumes set also this item in proper perspective. He is manifestly concerned with the individual's relation to God and with the Church or nation simply as the agency toward the individual.

An interesting gleaning from this survey was Dr. Maier's evidently successful endeavor to salvage Abraham Lincoln for the communion of saints.

RICHARD R. CAEMMERER

To Sign or Not to Sign. By F. E. Mayer, D. D., Professor of Systematic Theology, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo. Tract No. 137. Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo. 10 cents each; dozen 96 cents; 100, \$6.67.

Here is a pamphlet which many pastors have been anxiously awaiting. Dr. Mayer first presents the text of the "Agreement and Promise to be Signed by Non-Catholic Party" and then shows that this agreement is first an unfair, secondly an anti-Scriptural, and thirdly an unchristian contract. The closing paragraph presents the dilemma of a Protestant-Catholic courtship. The reviewer knows from his own ministry what heartaches develop when acquaintanceship between Lutheran and Catholic young people grows to real affection. This tract should be widely disseminated among our young people so that they may be spared the heartaches and the tears and perhaps the pangs of a tormented conscience which will come into their lives if they ignore this matter.

L. J. SIECK

Treasures of Hope. By the Rev. Alfred Doerffler. Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo. 274 pages, 6×8½. \$2.00.

On the inside flap of the jacket of this book the publisher says: "Here is an ideal book of devotion for the Christian pilgrim who has passed the noonday of life. In its pages he will find that 'light at evening time' which God has promised to every believer in Christ." However, one should not think that this book of devotional material will serve its purpose only for people of very advanced years. While in the production of it older people were kept in mind and therefore also a large type has been used in the printing, yet the Scripture readings, prayers, and hymns will well serve the daily spiritual needs of the average father and mother, especially when in their household the children have arrived at the age of their teens. The book contains devotional material for four weeks, after which it can all well be repeated; also additional prayers for various occasions, such as Communion prayers, prayers in days of sickness and convalescence, and a few comforting promises from Scripture. This book supplies a real need and ought to have a large sale.

J. H. C. FRITZ

The History of Christian Doctrine. By E. H. Klotsche, A. M., Ph. D., D. D., Professor at Western Theological Seminary, Fremont, Nebr., and the Chicago Lutheran Theological Seminary at Maywood, Ill. Last chapter by Prof. J. Theodore Mueller, Th. D., Ph. D. 1945. The Lutheran Literary Board, Burlington, Iowa. 349 pages. \$4.50.

When on February 11, 1937, Dr. E. H. Klotsche through his sudden death was summoned out of this world, the Lutheran Church, and especially the U. L. C. A., with which he was connected, suffered a severe loss. Ever since his India days, when he served in the Leipzig Mission and had made the acquaintance of Missionaries Naether, Mohn, Kellerbauer, and Freche, he had been a reader of *Lehre und Wehre* and entertained a high regard for the position of our church body. Through a strange concatenation of circumstances his wish to join the Missouri Synod when he came to America was not realized, but the reviewer is glad to state that in Dr. Klotsche we possessed a warm friend on the

other side of the synodical fence. His *Outline of the History of Doctrine* and his *Christian Symbolics* have become favorably known throughout the Lutheran Church of America. These books are works which show that he was both scholarly and a conservative Lutheran. The book before us was nearing completion when death snatched him away. The manuscript, not quite finished, wandered hither and thither. Our esteemed colleague Dr. Mueller was kind enough to add a chapter, in which the survey is brought up to date.

The present work is more ambitious than the author's *Outline*, which appeared in 1927. While the latter work, following the plan of books on the history of doctrine like those of Harnack and Seeberg, led the student up to the Reformation era, the present volume covers the history of the Church from the beginning to our own day. Among the most interesting pages of the book are some in which more recent theologians and their productions are described.

The method of the author is simple. He states a few historical facts about the author or movement under discussion, and then he lists the characteristics that have to be noted. The remarks are usually brief and always to the point. There is no padding or other waste of words. An excellent preparation for the writing of this book the author provided for himself through producing, besides the very brief *Outline of the History of Doctrine*, the other book mentioned above, *Christian Symbolics*, where naturally many of the phenomena are treated which appear in this history of Christian doctrine. Since the work was left incomplete, the widow of the author was eager to find a well-equipped person for adding what was still missing. Our esteemed colleague Dr. J. T. Mueller kindly accepted the somewhat difficult assignment to write the concluding chapter on the Christian doctrine in its modern setting, in which present-day theological trends in Europe and America are treated. Here welcome information is given on positive confessionalism in Germany, the Barthian Movement, the Scandinavian response, Church group interest in England, the Russian soul-search, and three trends in America, viz., the revolt of Modernism against positive truth, the awakening of neo-Thomism, and the neo-orthodox halfway challenge—quite an apt title for the position of Niebuhr and others.

The book is a veritable mine of historical lore. Here and there inaccuracies may have slipped in, especially because the author was not able to make a final revision, but, generally speaking, the book is a worthy and reliable production.

W. ARNDT

The Jehovah's Witnesses. By Herbert Hewitt Stroup. Columbia University Press, New York. 180 pages, 6¼×9¼. \$2.25.

It is not difficult to analyze the teachings of Jehovah's Witnesses, because this religious group never grows tired of publishing and peddling its publications. But it is very difficult to find a good, reliable, and exhaustive treatise on the history, the financial structure, the government, the missionary technique, the social and economic background of this cult. Jehovah's Witnesses have consistently refused to publish pertinent information. The author has succeeded by private interviews,

attendance at meetings, correspondence, reading their publications, and other means to gather information which is very helpful in properly evaluating this cult in its social significance. The study sheds light on many of the peculiar and antisocial practices and beliefs of Jehovah's Witnesses.

F. E. MAYER

The Ease Era. By Paul Mallon. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. Grand Rapids, Mich., 1945. 119 pages, 5¼×7¾. \$1.50.

This is a collection of twenty-two articles written for a newspaper syndicate during 1943-44 by the popular Washington columnist Paul Mallon. The writer takes up the cause of what he terms "common sense education" over against "the ruling oligarchy of well-meaning loose theorists" and "the educational trust," his description of the progressive education group. Mallon pleads for the restoration of discipline in both scholarship and conduct in the schools, for he sincerely believes, "The thought-origin of progressive education, its inspiration, pervaded every field of human activity in the ease era. We similarly got away from sound values, not only in child raising and education, but in international politics, where the given-word in treaty form was made to be broken, where faith in Christian ethics no longer existed. We got away from it in our own domestic politics to a considerable extent, and in business. Contracts were made to be broken. Honor was not respected. Success justified any loose course. We also veered away from sound values in finance. We destroyed the morality of money and promoted every financial artifice to escape sound facts in every direction."

The book discusses the elective system in high schools and colleges, scholarship versus mass education, undisciplined classroom teaching, sex education, the rule by the children of the home and schools of America, progressive paganism, and other symptoms of modern education. His caustic review of the report on juvenile delinquency by the Pepper Subcommittee is one of the high spots in the book.

Mallon's outspoken criticism has brought him a wave of letters from local P. T. A.'s, commentators, newspaper editors, boards of education and classroom teachers, most of which applaud his courage and offer additional evidence to substantiate his thesis.

While some of the criticism is true only of the lunatic fringe of progressive education, which is the bane of every movement, and some of his views may be questioned, the book is most stimulating, and his criticism should be heard by every Christian educator. The publisher might have set a more moderate price for the 119 pages, of which about 30 are blank or carry only the chapter titles.

ARTHUR C. REFF

Walkin' Preacher of the Ozarks. By Guy Howard. Harper & Brothers, New York. 274 pages, 5¼×8½. \$2.50.

Guy Howard's story of his work among the humble folk of the Ozarks has become a best seller, and as a pattern of ministerial consecration it deserves consideration, perhaps, also in this periodical. It is certainly remarkable for a minister to forsake beckoning green pastures and to devote his life to helping the pastorless communities in the Ozark area for the mean compensation of fourteen dollars a month. In addi-

tion the author knows how to tell a story well and how to depict the simple mountain people in such a way as to reveal their foibles and yet also make them dear to the reader. There is much of the charm in this book which we find in Harold Bell Wright's classics on the Ozarks. The ministry of the mountain preacher, of course, differs from that to which Lutheran missionaries are accustomed. It is largely centered in revivalism and in combating booze. To the reviewer it would seem as if at times the problem of drunkenness has been exaggerated to make a story. At least the problem never appeared to him in the way in which it is pictured in this book, when time and again he spent his vacations in the Ozarks looking for just such manifestations of human delinquency as are here described. He found the Ozark folk a sincere, lovable, and, for the greater part, pious people, neighborly and helpful, and despite unfavorable conditions, much given to industry and thrift. But all this does not mean that Mr. Howard's story does not make entertaining and also profitable reading.

JOHN THEODORE MUELLER

BOOKS RECEIVED

From Concordia Publishing House:

Dickie and Donnie on the Farm. By Allene Albrecht. 28 pages, 6½×9½. 50 cents.

Growing Up in Reading. Practice Book VI. By William Bloom and Elmer Huedepohl. Consultant: Alfred Schmieding. 62 pages, 8½×11. 45 cents.

From Abingdon-Cokesbury Press, New York:

From Sunset to Dawn. By Leslie R. Smith. 125 pages, 4¼×6¼. \$1.00.

From Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, Grand Rapids, Mich.:

When Christ Takes Over. By Dr. Simon Blocker. 105 pages, 5½×8. \$1.25.

From Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Mich.:

As the Small Rain. By Bob Jones, Jr., Litt. D., L. H. D., LL. D. 190 pages, 5½×8. \$1.50.

To Our Subscribers

It has been our custom to retain the names of our subscribers on our lists for two numbers after the subscription has expired, so that the subscriptions could be continued without interruption in case a renewal came in late. We were very happy to follow this plan at extra expense, but we are now unable to continue this policy because of present conditions.

Our Government has insisted that we reduce consumption of paper and eliminate all possible waste. Because of the restriction in the use of paper it will become necessary to discontinue subscriptions for all our periodicals with the last number paid for under the subscription agreement. We shall, however, continue our policy of reminding our subscribers of the expiration of the subscription by inserting the usual numbers of notices in the second last and the last numbers of the periodicals they receive. It is our sincere hope that our subscribers will co-operate with us and the Government by renewing their subscriptions promptly upon receipt of the first notice.

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