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## Book Review. - Literatur

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## Book Review

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

**Devotions for Lutheran Schools.** By Wm. A. Kramer. Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo., 1946. 286 pages, 5×7½. \$1.50.

This is a completely revised and enlarged version of the 1934 edition appearing under the same title. The book contains prayers, hymn suggestions, and Bible readings arranged according to the *Advanced Bible History, Bible Stories*, and Luther's Small Catechism. The hymns have been selected mostly from *The Lutheran Hymnal*, and an effort has been made to co-ordinate them as closely as possible with the *Memory Book for Lutheran Schools*.

The prayers of the first edition have been revised, and additional devotions suitable to the needs of younger children have been included. The prayers for special occasions make the book especially useful.

The suggestions for Bible readings are a new and welcome feature.

The *Devotions* will be suitable not only for pastors and Christian day school teachers, but also for Sunday school superintendents and department leaders who may be in search of material to supplement the suggestions in the *Sunday School Teachers' Quarterly*.

The author submits the following in his introduction, to which every reader will heartily subscribe: "But there are two purposes which this book should not serve under any circumstances: It should not displace the teacher's own devotions which he prepares with the daily needs of his class in mind; neither the guidance and practice which the pupils should receive in the preparation of suitable school devotions. *Devotions for Lutheran Schools* is to be a guide and an aid in the preparation of school devotions — no more."

ARTHUR C. REPP

**Instructor's Manual for Luther's Small Catechism.** By H. J. Boettcher. Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo., 1946. LVII, plus 352 pages, 6×9¼. \$2.25.

In 1941 Synod authorized the Catechism Committee to publish an instructor's manual for the new Catechism. In accordance with this instruction the Rev. H. J. Boettcher was chosen. The book which he has prepared is the result of much detailed study and the experience of one who has been close to the work of Christian education for many years. In the words of the Catechism Committee, "The author has dedicated his efforts in the *Manual* primarily to prevent cold and formalistic teaching of religion in Lutheran schools and, wherever it may have crept in, to undo its blighting effects." We believe that Rev. Boettcher has succeeded in offering material that is truly functional in the proper sense.

The manual, similar to the workbook which recently appeared, has organized the material of the Catechism into thirty-four units. The plan suggested is flexible enough to be used where the material is to be used for one, two, three, or five periods per week.

Each unit plan is divided into five divisions. The first division emphasizes the scope and importance of the particular topic, usually implemented with Bible passages and quotations from Luther's

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**Large Catechism.** The second division comprises the aim, showing what should be expected in terms of knowledge, attitude, habits and skills, and the anticipated outcome. This is followed by curriculum material offering many suggestions from the Bible, the Catechism, memory material, and selections from other readings, particularly non-Biblical sources. This variety will give the teacher ample opportunity to vary his material from year to year and help keep the topics alive. The fourth division deals with instructional methods and materials. This is a particularly valuable section, for it offers many practical suggestions to help visualize the curriculum to foster the assimilation of the material. The references for pictures, films, slides, and especially the recordings will prove invaluable to the teacher who has not the catalogs to lay his finger immediately on the many sources. The final division deals with suggestions to correlate the religious material with other subjects. While here and there opinions may differ as to the value of the suggestions, in general many of the hints will be practical for actual classroom use.

If the user of this book bears in mind that the manual is primarily meant for its encyclopedic value, he will not be overwhelmed by the wealth of suggestions. It is a mine of information, which is to be mined over a period of years, and it was not the intent of the author that the conscientious teacher should try to use it all at once. We heartily recommend the book in every field of the Church's program in religious education.

ARTHUR C. REPP

**Train Up a Child.** By Arthur L. Miller. Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo., 1946. 56 pages, 5×7½. 15 cents, paper.

Mr. Miller writes in his introduction, "Since the Christian training of our children is a shared responsibility, home and church must have a unified program of Christian education. In such a program there must be a common understanding of the means of Christian education and the procedures to be employed, and there must be co-operation between the home and the various educational agencies of the church." These ten studies under the following headings meet the problems in a practical and Biblical manner:

- I. The Home as the Child's Most Important School
- II. Guidance and Control of Children
- III. How to Preserve the Child from Sin
- IV. How to Deal with the Child Who Has Sinned
- V. Training the Child in Christian Virtues
- VI. Training in Worship
- VII. How to Conduct Family Devotions
- VIII. Co-operation Between Home and Sunday School
- IX. Co-operation Between Home and School
- X. Success in School

The book is suitable for use in parent-teacher associations, men's clubs, ladies' aids, and similar study groups.

Mr. Miller, now Executive Secretary of the Board for Parish Education, prepared these studies on the basis of many years of experience as Sunday school superintendent and principal of the Christian day school at a large Chicago church (Nazareth). The booklet will fill a long-felt need in the field of child training.

ARTHUR C. REPP

**Calvinism.** By Arthur Dakin. The Westminster Press, Philadelphia. 228 pages, 5½×8¼. \$2.75.

This book was written some years ago by Dr. Arthur Dakin, president of Briston Baptist College and then president of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland, and is now presented in an excellent edition by the Westminster Press. Dr. Dakin himself does not believe in Calvinism as it was given to the world some 400 years ago, but rather in its modified form in which Barthianism (and he believes Barth's fundamentals to be basically Calvinistic) has revived it. Nevertheless, the writer has done his job well. In the first part of the book he presents Calvinism as a dogmatic system, following closely the *Institutes*; in the second part he depicts Calvinism as an ecclesiastical system on the European Continent and in England-Scotland; in the third part he discusses such important problems as: "The Calvinistic View of Scripture"; "The Principle of Authority in Calvinism"; "The Calvinistic Way of Life"; "Calvinism and the Social Order"; "Church and State"; "The Revived Interest in Calvinism." Here is a book which pastors who are students of contemporary religious events dare not ignore. It has all the merits which a book of its kind should have: interest, substantial information, scholarship, and, above all, a timely message for people who believe that the Calvinistic philosophy is a necessity for our toppling world. To the reviewer it was of interest (just to mention one point) how Dr. Dakin judges Calvin's doctrine of the Lord's Supper. His presentation is (as the reviewer believes) correct. On the one hand, he shows Calvin's keen and constant emphasis on the "real presence"; on the other, he points out that Calvin's doctrine was a definite rejection of the Roman transubstantiation and of the Lutheran Real Presence ("Also he rejects Luther's idea of the ubiquity of the body [sic?]. His own view is something between"). The book calls for critical study, but also makes very absorbing and profitable reading.

JOHN THEODORE MUELLER

**The Rebirth of the German Church.** By Stewart W. Herman. Harper & Brothers, New York. 297 pages, 8¼×5¾. \$2.50.

Dr. Herman is in a strategic position to describe conditions in Germany. As pastor of the American Church in Berlin for seven years he witnessed the rise of Nazism and its assault on Christianity. (See the author's *It's Your Souls We Want*.) Since 1945 he has been associated with the World Council of Churches at Geneva and has been active in the rehabilitation program of the German churches. In this capacity he has had occasion to confer with the German Church leaders, to survey the needs of the German people, and to peruse official and confidential reports which come to his headquarters at Geneva. It is early to piece together the many fragments of recent history in the German Church, and the author cautions his readers that changes may have occurred by the time the book appears. The Preface was signed one year after V-E Day, and the publication date of the book is August 28. As far as I am able to judge, the data presented in the book are up to date. Naturally, some events have transpired since which shed new light on certain developments.—The last three chapters describe in graphic language the aftermath of the war, which is even more shocking and horrifying than war itself. The situation

of the Germans in the Russian Zone and in Poland, particularly in Silesia (Breslau), Posen, and Mazuria, beggars all description. The author describes the conditions as they obtained during the past winter. While I was in Geneva this summer, the author and the Rev. C. A. Nelson showed me pictures and documentary evidence which had been obtained during a survey made in the month of July. On the basis of this very recent information it is evident that there has been no appreciable change in the suffering and privation existing in these areas. The reading of this section of the book will prompt the reader to action for the unfortunate people who were caught between the "hammer and the sickle." The greater portion of the book is devoted to a discussion of religious conditions in Germany. Such problems as the guilt question, the de-nazification program of our military government, the rebuilding of the Church, are discussed by the author in great detail. In presenting this material he has rendered a service to all who would like to have a record of these trying times, of the struggle, the repentance, and also the heroism of the German Church. The de-nazification program has become the source of much irritation and has been subjected to criticism. The author mentions instances where a person was compelled to join the party against his better knowledge, though he had no sympathy for the Nazi principles, but now because of his official membership is deposed by the military government from his office as teacher or pastor or doctor, while others, who were Nazis at heart and had denounced the Christian Church but had never been asked officially to join the party, are now recognized by the military government as people in good standing. Having consulted with the heads of the departments of the military government who have this matter in hand, I know that such injustices are unavoidable and that every attempt is being made on the part of our government officials to be fair. Dr. Herman also mentions the interesting fact that the theological training in the former Prussian Church is no longer confined to the University of Berlin. On August 28 I was told in Neuendetschau that the Bavarian Church and also other sections in Germany have taken the initial step to establish theological faculties that are responsible only to the Church and not to the State. — The author's own theological position makes him very partial to, and an ardent supporter of, Martin Niemoeller's and Bishop Wurm's plans for the establishment of the Evangelical Church in Germany. This EKID, formed at Treysa in 1945, is at present only a federation of Lutherans, Reformed, and Evangelicals, governed by a council of twelve theologians, of which Wurm is the president, Niemoeller the vice-president, and H. Asmussen the secretary of the chancellery. Wurm and Niemoeller believe that the EKID, while not yet a Church, is nevertheless a fellowship of all who opposed Hitler in 1932 and 1933. Since the Confessing Christians (*Bekennende Kirche*) at that time were drawn together by their common opposition to Hitler's neo-paganism and in meeting a common enemy disregarded the historic Confessions of the Lutheran and the Reformed Churches, therefore at the present time these Christians should remain united on a broad pan-Protestant basis as expressed in the Barmen Theses. The author's book is an *apologia* for this ecumenical concept of the EKID. According to the other view, held chiefly by the leaders of the Bavarian Church, the EKID is only

a federation for co-operation in externals. They believe that the historic churches on the basis of their respective confessional standards must organize separately. It seemed to the reviewer that the author in his leaning toward the former view unconsciously lists all the failings and shortcomings of the Bavarians, but omits to mention that the Wuerttembergers have also erred on many points. There are many vexing questions before the German Protestant Church today, such as the Allied program of de-nazification and its effects upon the German Church leaders and pastors, the guilt question, the *Hilfswerk*. But in the reviewer's opinion the future development of EKID and its final form is probably the most pressing problem at present. The tensions existing between the group which considers the EKID a Church or at least a fellowship and the group which considers it only a federation are of a serious nature and will deeply affect the Protestant Church, particularly the Lutheran Church in Germany. Niemoeller said: "It is sometimes said in Germany today that EKID is only a federation of churches, but its leaders are aware that EKID must become more and more a single entity. The Council of EKID ought not to be regarded simply as an organizational office, but must carry out its real office on the basis of the Word of God, so that the separate regional churches may know that they are bound together by the authority of God's Word. We will not throw away the unity which God has given to the Confessing Church. There is a danger that EKID may again be split up. But the regional churches have promised in EKID to guard the unity of the Evangelical Christianity in Germany, and it is now up to them to keep their word. For EKID is the hope of Confessing Christianity in Germany" (p. 151f.) The deep chasm that lies between the Lutheran and the Reformed theology is being ignored by the one party, and yet the theologians ought to know that the differences are so fundamental that every doctrine will ultimately be affected, especially the doctrines concerning the essence and functions of the Church. It is a time when the theologians must wrestle with this problem and come to a God-pleasing solution.

F. E. MAYER

**Blue Prints for Great Living.** By Rev. D. C. Baer. The Lutheran Literary Board, Burlington, Iowa. 283 pages, 5¾ × 9¾. \$2.50.

This is the ninth volume of sermons published by Dr. Baer, pastor of a U. L. C. A. congregation at Norwood, Pa. As the reviewer has recommended previous sermons by the same author, so he recommends also this new series, which covers the "Ancient Epistle Lessons" from the first Sunday in Advent to the Sunday after Ascension. The second volume of the series is to appear in about four months. Pastor Baer's sermons possess many fine qualities. They are written in simple, dignified language, expound and apply the text in a fitting and vivid manner, are most timely, and, above all, prove that the author means to present to his hearers God's Word in its proper setting. The special title, "Blue Prints for Great Living," shows from what viewpoint the sermons are written. They are, in the main, instructive and hortatory, but do not overlook the *terminus a quo* of a Christian's sanctification — his redemption and regeneration. There is much that a minister may learn from these discourses, though a word of caution may also be in place. When, for example, the author writes in his first

sermon by way of introduction: "Our lesson today says, Awake! The Lord is coming! It is time to cease theological hairsplitting, it is time to quit searching for hidden meanings among the apocryphal writings, it is time to stop quibbling over non-essentials, here is a truth big enough and wonderful enough to occupy all your thoughts" (p. 7), he does not state what St. Paul had in mind with his hortative "Awake!" Or, when he writes in his last sermon: "Peter evidently thought that the end of the present world order was just around the corner" (p. 277), he does not adequately depict the eschatological outlook of the New Testament. On the one hand, all Apostles speak of the end of the world as being "just around the corner"; on the other, they admonish the Christians to live and labor as if there were no end of the world "around the corner." We find this seeming paradox also in Christ's addresses, and it is just so that we pastors of this last age should represent it to our hearers; for, on the one hand, we must be ready for the Lord's Second Coming every moment of our lives; on the other, we must do our work while it is day, before the night cometh when no man can work. But such *naevi* are exceptional and may be overlooked in view of the many values which the book offers. The author follows the strict expository method, expounding and applying the text verse by verse. Over against this the unified sermon, with its special "theme" and its "parts," renders it easier for the average hearer to grasp the essentials of the text. The author, however, never permits himself to ramble, but hews to the line, producing sermons that can be preached in about twenty-five minutes and which, after all, are delightfully old-fashioned.

JOHN THEODORE MUELLER

**River of Years, an Autobiography.** By Joseph Fort Newton. J. B. Lippincott Co., N. Y. 390 pages, 6×8½. \$3.00.

Here is an autobiography which orthodox Christians will read with much regret, since, as almost every page shows, to liberal, sometimes even blasphemous, but by nature kindly and socially deeply interested Dr. Newton the crucified Christ is so great a foolishness that he can hardly find words enough to describe his utter contempt for traditional Christianity. Nevertheless, Dr. Newton's amazing psychological insights into human nature, his many contacts with past and present leaders in Church and State, his vivid, fascinating descriptions of happenings in his life, his subtle, refined humor, his novel presentation of facts, his sheer brilliancy of writing, his absorbing accounts of his many travels, his personal modesty, and other admirable features displayed in the book make it worth-while reading also for such as do not agree with his liberal, deistic views. Dr. Newton is a Mason and has been for years editor of Masonic journals and books. His "god" is the deity of Freemasonry, an unknown, indefinable, but nevertheless good sovereign, in whose love we must trust to be happy in life. For many years he has been pastor of the Episcopalian Church of St. Luke and Epiphany in Philadelphia, but has become known in wide circles by his syndicated articles in the daily press, which, however, he has now been obliged to discontinue on account of the exacting demands of his parish and other work.

JOHN THEODORE MUELLER

## BOOKS RECEIVED

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

**Concordia Bible Teacher**, Vol. III, No. 3. Topic: "The Life of Samuel." 79 pages,  $4\frac{3}{4} \times 7$ . 75 cents per annum.

**Concordia Bible Student**, Vol. XXXV, No. 3. Topic: "The Life of Samuel." 63 pages,  $4\frac{3}{4} \times 7$ . 50 cents per annum.

**Wells of Salvation**. Daily Devotions, No. 69, June 11 to July 31, 1946. 5 cents each, postpaid; 48 cents per dozen, postage extra; \$3.00 per hundred, postage extra.

**Glaubenslehren**. Andachten fuer die Zeit vom 11. Juni bis zum 31. Juli 1946. Price same as above.

**Refuge and Strength**. Daily Devotions, September 22 to November 10, 1946. No. 71. By Rev. Martin Walker, Buffalo, N. Y. 64 pages. 5 cents each, postpaid; 48 cents per dozen, postage extra; \$3.00 per hundred, postage extra.

**Glockengelaeute der Reformation**. Taegliche Andachten fuer die Zeit vom 21. September bis zum 10. November 1946. By Rev. Arth. E. Michel, em., Inglewood, Calif. Price, same as above.

**Case for Christian Education**, A Five-Act Play. By Frank H. Colba.  $5 \times 7\frac{1}{2}$ , 32 pages. 15 cents.

**Blessings of the Reformation**. By A. C. Mueller,  $5\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{3}{4}$ , 15 pages. 6 cents each; dozen, 60 cents, postage extra; hundred, \$4.00, postage extra.

**Church Ushering**. By Paul H. D. Lang.  $4 \times 6\frac{1}{4}$ . 61 pages, including index. 20 cents.

*From Moody Press, 153 Institute Pl., Chicago, Ill.:*

**The Christian Use of the Bible**. By Frank E. Gaebelein, Litt. D. 119 pages,  $5\frac{3}{8} \times 7\frac{3}{4}$ . \$1.25.

**Truth vs. Dogma**. By J. C. Macaulay. 125 pages,  $5\frac{1}{2} \times 7\frac{3}{4}$ . \$1.25.

*From Good Books, Inc., Chicago, Illinois:*

**That You Might Believe**. By Henry M. Morris.  $5\frac{1}{2} \times 7\frac{3}{4}$ . 156 pages. \$1.50.

*From Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan:*

**Prince of the Pulpit**. By Joe W. Burton.  $5\frac{1}{2} \times 7\frac{3}{4}$ . 87 pages. \$1.00.

**More "Guess My Name" Bible Quizzes**. By Mabel H. Hansen, Litt. D.  $5\frac{1}{2} \times 7\frac{3}{4}$ . 39 pages. 35 cents.

**Buds and Blossoms**. Missionary Stories for Children. By Marian Bishop Bower.  $5\frac{1}{2} \times 7\frac{3}{4}$ . 76 pages. \$1.00.

*From the Wartburg Press, Columbus, Ohio:*

**So You Are Thinking!** By S. C. Michelfelder.  $5\frac{1}{2} \times 8$ , 83 pages. \$1.00.

**Church Posters and Publicity**, Graphically presented by Homer H. Seay.  $7\frac{3}{4} \times 10\frac{3}{4}$ , 79 pages. \$3.00.