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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.

Christianity and Liberalism. J. Gresham Machen. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., Grand Rapids, Mich. 189 pages, 5½×7½. \$2.50.

What Is Faith? Same author and same publishers. 263 pages, 5½×7½. \$2.50.

Dr. Machen died on January 1, 1937, as professor of New Testament in Westminster Theological Seminary at the early age of fifty-six years; but his frank and clear witness on behalf of the Christian faith against the obscurities and falsifications of Modernism is not forgotten. It lives not only in the two churches which, following his testimony against Liberalism, separated themselves from the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A., but also in the many books and articles which he published to warn earnest Christians against the danger of unbelief. Eerdmans Publishing Company has done well in reprinting two of Machen's important apologetic works. *Christianity and Liberalism* appeared in 1923 and *What Is Faith?* in 1925. These apologetic writings were followed in 1931 by *The Virgin Birth of Christ* and in 1936 by *The Christian Faith in the Modern World*, the latter two works being supplementary to the first two. *Christianity and Liberalism* clearly and sharply delineates six fundamentals of traditional Christianity against the aberrations and substitutes of Modernism: The Necessity of Doctrine, God and Man, The Bible, Christ, Salvation, The Church. In *What Is Faith?* he investigates and defines the Christian concept of saving faith under the following headings: Faith in God, Faith in Christ, Faith Born of Need, Faith and the Gospel, Faith and Salvation, Faith and Works, Faith and Hope. In clear and simple language, which even the average layman may readily understand, with keen analysis and sound judgment, and with great force he sets forth what the Christian Church has always understood by saving faith and why the "faith" of Modernism does not deserve that name at all. The two books make fascinating and instructive reading, for Machen well understood the orthodox Christian faith and the sham obfuscations of modern religious Liberalism. Since the books defend the common Christian faith, held by all Christians, the reader will find little to which he cannot agree, though the Lutheran reader misses the Scriptural doctrine of the means of grace, especially where faith is discussed in relation to the Gospel as the means through which it is engendered by the Holy Ghost. This doctrine Machen could not set forth since as a true Calvinist he held both to the doctrine of God's sovereignty and that of the Spirit's immediate operation. May the books find many readers, for they come with a challenging message to all Christendom to adhere to the doctrine once delivered to the saints and to beware of what Modernism offers in its place.

JOHN THEODORE MUELLER

[955]

The Basis of Christian Faith. A Modern Defense of the Christian Religion. By Floyd E. Hamilton. Harper and Brothers, N. Y. 354 pages, 5½×7¾. \$2.50.

This is the third and revised edition of an apologetic which has been received very favorably in wide Christian circles. The author was for twenty years a missionary in Korea, where for fifteen years he was professor of the Bible in the Union Christian College at Pyengyang. Since 1943 he has served as general secretary of the Committee on Christian Education of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, but is now under appointment to return to Korea as missionary. The book contains eighteen well-written and convincing chapters, in which the cause of Christianity is valiantly defended against infidelity, an appendix in the form of a reply to the argument of skeptics that no amount of evidence could establish the fact of a miracle in the true sense, a well-arranged and exhaustive bibliography covering the subject matter of each chapter, and a most helpful index. The first chapter, setting forth the possibilities and limitations of reason in the realm of the spiritual, contains material usually not found in popular works on apologetics, but nevertheless very important to consider. In his argumentation against materialism the author shows that the old arguments of materialists against the existence and providence of God break down in view of the almost miraculous discoveries of the structure of atoms and radio-activity. So also evolution is disproved by the creative and sustaining divine order revealed in Mendel's Law. The author thus makes use of the latest findings of science, and his book is in the fullest sense of the term a *modern* defense of the Christian religion. We believe that the work will be welcomed by many also in its third edition, especially by pastors who must deal with students of universities and colleges who are in danger of having their faith undermined by materialistic and other anti-Christian teachers.

JOHN THEODORE MUELLER

The Epistles of St. Clement of Rome and St. Ignatius of Antioch. Newly translated and annotated by James A. Kleist, S. J., Ph. D., Professor of Classical Languages, St. Louis University, St. Louis, Mo. The Newman Bookshop, Westminster, Md., 1946. 162 pages, 5½×9. \$2.50.

Whoever is looking for a good modern translation of the Epistles of Clement of Rome and Ignatius of Antioch may well be urged to obtain the work now lying before us. Dr. Kleist, known in all our schools as the translator and editor of Kaegi's Greek Grammar and in the world of scholars as a richly endowed teacher and interpreter of the Greek and Roman classics, possesses in an extraordinary degree the gift of rendering the ancient texts into good, virile, idiomatic English. His translation of Mark's Gospel and advance sheets of his translation of the Four Gospels (which translation, we are told, will soon appear) have furnished proof of his abilities in this field. He not only knows the principle of the famous classicist Caer for translators, *So genau wie moeglich, so frei wie noetig*, but he has distinctly seen that if a rendering is to serve the general public, it must by all means be readable. This point cannot be emphasized too much. If a translation is intended for specialists, to let them see what the translator believes to be the precise significance of a word or phrase, a very literal render-

ing, be it ever so wooden and awkward, will do. But if the translation is to be offered to the general reader for his enjoyment and edification, accuracy must be accompanied by readableness. Dr. Kleist, on p. 57 f., makes the apropos remarks: "A word remains to be said about the tone of the subjoined English translation. The style of Ignatius is so compact, so succinct, and so highly individual that the reader of this translation who wishes to enjoy the additional luxury of tasting *all the Ignatian flavor* must of necessity go to the original. Translations are not made for the benefit of the scholar, but address themselves in the first place to a reader not conversant with the intricacies of Greek diction. What he looks for in taking up a translation is not merely accuracy, or fidelity to thought, but also readableness. He wants to know — of course, in as few words as possible — what the Greek writer meant to say; he is anxious to grasp the sense without being compelled to turn to a footnote explaining it. A translation is therefore not deficient just because the number of its words exceeds that of the Greek." We may add that it is for this reason that the so-called Twentieth Century Translation of the New Testament is highly valued in many circles.

On the importance of the ancient documents here submitted in modern English it is not necessary to say much. Clement of Rome and Ignatius are the earliest ones of the so-called Apostolic Fathers, the former having written in 96, the latter, as Dr. Kleist holds, in 110. The date last mentioned is disputed, but 110 does not seem too early. Here we, then, have authentic witness of what the Christian Church in the age immediately following that of the Apostles themselves believed. One is cheered to see that, generally speaking, the same precious faith is confessed in these writings as that taught by the holy penmen of the New Testament. We say advisedly: "generally speaking." While we do not share all the views of Dr. Kleist as to hierarchical implications found in the teachings of these early documents, it must be admitted, we believe, that Ignatius' letters do manifest tendencies of this nature. The brief introductions submit to the reader what little is known as to the life of these two Apostolic Fathers and inform him on the circumstances that gave rise to these epistles. Valuable notes and references are subjoined. It is the intention of the general editors and of the publishers to issue a series having the title "Ancient Christian Writers," in which there will be made available in a modern version the legacy bequeathed to us by the Christian writers of the first centuries — a meritorious undertaking. The present volume begins the series.

W. ARNDT

Christianity Rightly So Called. By S. G. Craig. Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Co., Philadelphia, Pa. 270 pages, 5¼ × 8. \$2.00.

This is a book which, the reviewer believes, should be read by all theologians and intelligent laymen since its aim is to distinguish between Christianity and its counterfeits in a clear and unmistakable manner. It answers the old question, raised by Harnack decades ago, "What is Christianity?" and in a clear and convincing way demonstrates that only that is Christianity which acknowledges the supernatural truths concerning God and man's salvation that are revealed in Scripture. This thesis is simple

enough, but the excellent way in which Dr. Craig defends it against modern religious liberalism, which falsely claims to be Christian, fills the heart of the Christian believer with great joy. To study the book means to spend hours of real enjoyment. Dr. Craig, a graduate of Princeton University and of Princeton Theological Seminary, has been engaged in editorial work for about thirty years, first as editor of *The Presbyterian* and then as editor of *Christianity Today*. Twelve years he spent in the pastorate. As an interesting distinction made by the author we quote the following: "The Bible is the Word of God" (the Christian doctrine); "The Bible is the word of man" (the teaching of naturalism); "The Bible contains the word of God" (liberalism); "The Bible becomes the word of God" (Barthianism or dialectical theology), that is, "only as God speaks to us directly from it" (p. 204).

JOHN THEODORE MUELLER

Preaching Without Notes. By Clarence E. Macartney. Abingdon-Cokesbury Press, New York. 186 pages, 5×7½. \$1.75.

Anyone who has read one of Dr. Macartney's books expects stimulation when he opens a new volume from his pen. He will not be disappointed in *Preaching Without Notes*. In six chapters the author treats: I. "The Recall to Gospel Preaching." This assumes that there has been in many places a departure from Gospel preaching. As evidence of this he states: "When, for example, one can go through newspaper excerpts of forty sermons preached on a Sunday in metropolitan pulpits and find only one mention of sin, the inevitable conclusion must be that where the need of the Gospel was not declared, the Gospel itself, the good tidings of salvation, was not spoken." "When the pulpit strikes no distinctively Christian note, then the next thing is that almost any opinion may be heard from the pulpit." As conditions for successful Gospel preaching he gives, first, a concern for and desire for the salvation of souls; second, the presentation of the cardinal doctrines and truths of the Christian faith; and third, prayer. The second chapter presents "The Preacher and His Illustrations." It discusses the length, choice, and sources of illustrations and their use and is rich in examples from the Bible, biography, fiction, poetry, philosophy, nature, and common life. Chapter III has the title "Getting Ready for the Pulpit" and emphasizes the importance of Bible and general reading with suggestions on the profitable use of the pastor's reading. Chapter IV. "Bible Biographical Preaching" includes the topics of a number of sermon series which the author has used in his ministry. Chapter V. "Preaching Without Notes." "The highest preaching and the highest oratory is the impact of one soul upon another in free and open address." The author speaks from personal experience and success. He presents the advantages as well as the drawbacks and dangers of preaching without notes, its secret, the use of memory, and the experience of free preachers. In the sixth and final chapter Dr. Macartney discusses his own noble conception of the minister's high calling and the ways in which his personal life will affect his preaching. "The life that the minister leads during the week follows him up the stairs into the pulpit, and if that life has been worthy, it will strengthen him and give him power and joy and liberty in utterance." Every Gospel preacher will find in this volume real inspiration for his pulpit work.

L. J. SIECK

Manual of Gospel Broadcasting. By Wendell P. Loveless. Published by Moody Press, Chicago. 352 pages, 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ × 5 $\frac{1}{4}$. \$3.50.

During a period of twenty years Mr. Loveless has been director of the Radio Voice of Moody Bible Institute. He ought to have much to say that is valuable for the man standing or sitting before the microphone, be he preacher or speaker; and he has. Even for his pulpit work a preacher can get some good hints by reading this manual, as, for instance, when it is said that when the speaker writes his address, he must remember that he is writing not for the eye, but for the ear. Mr. Loveless says that this manual has been prepared with three major objects in view: "1. That it might serve as a textbook of gospel radio for schools, colleges, Bible institutes, and theological seminaries, in which young people are being trained for Christian service; 2. that it might prove to be interesting reading for the layman who, while a regular listener to gospel programs on the air, has not had an opportunity to look 'behind the scenes'; and 3. that it might be a help to those already actively engaged in gospel broadcasting who need added instruction in certain phases and techniques." (Preface.) Mr. Loveless believes that this book "is the first to be published covering all departments of gospel broadcasting." J. H. C. FRITZ

Alzaos, Puertas, Y Entrara El Rey De Gloria, Jehova. Programa Para Festejar El Nacimiento De Jesus. Hecho por el Pastor A. T. Kramer. Bahia Blanca, Argentina.

This fine little program of twenty-four pages, suitably arranged for a Spanish children's Christmas Eve service, contains questions and answers, Christmas carols for children and the congregation, numerous recitations in the form of Scripture passages and Christmas hymns, among them many of our favorite gems by English and German poets, well translated by Rev. A. T. Kramer into Spanish. We cheerfully recommend this Spanish order of service to all who in this country have occasion to use it in their churches or who perhaps are interested in learning Spanish. Pastor Kramer certainly deserves much credit for this simple, but beautiful order of worship. The price, unfortunately, is not given.

JOHN THEODORE MUELLER

C. H. Spurgeon's Sermon Notes. By David Otis Fuller. Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Mich. 337 pages, 5 $\frac{3}{8}$ × 7 $\frac{3}{4}$.

C. H. Spurgeon's Sermon Illustrations. By David Otis Fuller. Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Mich. 144 pages, 5 $\frac{3}{8}$ × 7 $\frac{3}{4}$.

Although issued several years ago, these useful volumes still deserve to be brought to the attention of our pastors. Dr. Fuller, pastor of the Wealthy Street Baptist Temple in Grand Rapids, has in these volumes edited a great amount of Spurgeon's original publications. The first volume, here in its third edition, provides 193 sermon outlines edited and condensed from Spurgeon's four original volumes. The illustrations are culled from three volumes: *Spurgeon's Gold*, *Feathers for Arrows*, *Barbed Arrows*. They are listed alphabetically and include both anecdotes and analogies.

Spurgeon was a product and an example of the Victorian Age in British speech. Hence his published sermons, particularly as

edited by his associates, are somewhat diffuse and prolix in style for the modern ear. These little editions give a splendid cross section of sides of Spurgeon's talent which are most helpful for today. The outlines normally treat small texts and sometimes do so in a whimsical fashion. In general, however, they are textual and centered in the Atonement. The outlines more frequently employ, instead of a logical division, a series of observations of the text or theme as the method of division. Hence they are a useful example of variety in sermon outlines and may prove stimulating for the preacher's own approach to texts in general.

The illustrations are less useful, as they stand, for present usage. They will, however, suggest to the preacher to be more aware of his own surroundings and time for illustrative devices than he may possibly be.

RICHARD R. CAEMMERER

BOOKS RECEIVED

From Concordia Publishing House:

Concordia Bible Teacher, Vol. VII, No. 4, October—December, 1946. Topic: "Great Passages of the Bible." 320 pages, per annum, 75 cents.

Concordia Bible Student, Vol. XXXV, No. 4, October—December, 1946. Topic: "Great Passages of the Bible." 255 pages, per annum, 50 cents.

The Christ for Every Day. Daily Devotions, November 11 to December 31, 1946. No. 72. By the Rev. George C. Koenig. 64 pages. Price: 5 cents per copy, postpaid; 48 cents per dozen, postage extra; \$3.00 per hundred, postage extra.

"Herr, lehre uns beten!" **Kurze Andachten fuer die Zeit vom 11. November bis zum 31. Dezember 1946.** The Rev. F. A. Hertwig. Price, same as above.

From Abingdon-Cokesbury Press, New York 11, N. Y.:

The Message of Stewardship. By Ralph Spaulding Cushman. 256 pages, including index, 4 $\frac{3}{8}$ × 6 $\frac{3}{4}$. \$1.00.

Start Where You Are. By Lewis L. Dunnington. 223 pages, 5 $\frac{1}{8}$ × 7 $\frac{1}{8}$. \$1.75.

From Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Mich.:

Life Endures. By Roy L. Laurin. 248 pages, 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ × 7 $\frac{3}{4}$. \$3.00.

Come Unto Me. By Hyman Appelman. 122 pages, 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ × 8. \$1.50.

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

The Scar. By Charles H. Holding. 118 pages, 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ × 8. \$1.25.

The Apostle John. A Devotional Commentary. By W. H. Griffith Thomas, D. D. 372 pages, 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ × 5 $\frac{1}{4}$. \$2.50.

From Fleming H. Revell Co., New York, N. Y.:

Prayer. By Frank C. Laubach. 95 pages, 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ × 7 $\frac{1}{8}$. \$1.25.

From Lutheran Publishing House, Blair, Nebr.:

Commit Thy Way unto the Lord. Compiled by Anette Hagen. 71 pages, 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ × 9 $\frac{1}{4}$. 35 cents.