

1-1-1949

## Book Review. - Literatur

F. E. Mayer

*Concordia Seminary, St. Louis*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholar.csl.edu/ctm>



Part of the [Practical Theology Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Mayer, F. E. (1949) "Book Review. - Literatur," *Concordia Theological Monthly*. Vol. 20, Article 8.

Available at: <https://scholar.csl.edu/ctm/vol20/iss1/8>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Print Publications at Scholarly Resources from Concordia Seminary. It has been accepted for inclusion in Concordia Theological Monthly by an authorized editor of Scholarly Resources from Concordia Seminary. For more information, please contact [seitzw@csl.edu](mailto:seitzw@csl.edu).

---

## 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.

**D. Chr. Ernst Luthardt's Kompendium der Dogmatik.** Von D. Dr. Robert Jelke, Professor der Theologie in Heidelberg. 15. Auflage. Jedermann-Verlag, Heidelberg. 1948. XIV und 479 Seiten, 7×9.

When K. Stroebel reviewed the first edition of *Luthardt's Kompendium* (*Zeitschrift fuer gesammte Lutherische Theologie und Kirche*, 1867, pp. 191—201), he hoped that as Hase's *Hutterus redivivus* had gone through many editions, so also *Luthardt's Kompendium* would see at least ten editions. His hope has been fulfilled. For almost a century this compend of Lutheran dogmatics has been used as a textbook. Since 1932 Dr. Robert Jelke, for almost thirty years professor of theology at Heidelberg, has prepared three new editions of *Luthardt's Kompendium*. While the editor has preserved the general arrangement and in some instances even the phraseology of the first edition, the Jelke editions quite naturally reflect the author-editor's theological orientation. This is a modified Erlanger Theology as it was developed by Bishop Ludwig Ihmels. At the same time the influence of Max Reischle and Martin Kaehler are also traceable. The former, a disciple of Ritschl, stressed a formal-philosophical approach, the latter the historically established fact and eternally relevant significance of Christianity. The value of this compend lies in its systematic arrangement and in its objective presentation. Luthardt and Jelke lay great emphasis on the history of doctrine. In its style and arrangement this compend might almost be considered the very antithesis of Pieper's *Christliche Dogmatik*. Luthardt's compend is more encyclopedic, dogmatico-historical, and can therefore be really expanded, revised, and brought up to date. Pieper, however, wrote in such a personal, almost heart-to-heart manner, and directed himself so specifically to the antitheses of his day, that it is extremely difficult to submit Pieper to a revision or a translation. Luthardt-Jelke is an excellent reference work; Pieper remains even in his written *Dogmatik* the vibrant teacher of God's Word.—The publishers, aided by a donation of paper from the Presbyterian Church, have succeeded in publishing a book which excels mechanically anything we have seen on the German book market.

F. E. MAYER

**Die Theologie der lutherischen Bekenntnisschriften.** By Edmund Schlink. 2. Auflage. Chr. Kaiser-Verlag, Muenchen. 1946. 434 Seiten, 6×9. DM. 10.80 (postage additional; total about \$4.00).

The author, born in 1903, studied natural sciences, psychology, psychiatry, and philosophy from 1922—27, and then theology 1927—30. For a brief period he taught at Bethel, Bielefeld, until the Nazis closed the school. Since 1946 he has been professor of systematic theology at Heidelberg. He was active in the *Bekennende Kirche* and understood the Barmen Theses to require the pastors to consider their Confessional standards seriously. As a result he

wrote a number of tracts which set forth the true spirit of the Lutheran Confessions. In 1940 he published the results of his lectures on the Confessions, *Die Theologie der lutherischen Bekenntnisschriften*, a reprint of which has appeared in an edition of 5,000 during the past summer. There is no other work on the market comparable to Schlink's study, which takes all Lutheran Confessions, including the Formula of Concord, into consideration. We have many introductions to the Confessions, Plitt's introduction to the Augustana, Frank's theological analysis of the Formula of Concord, Krauth's evaluation of the underlying principle of the Confessional Writings in the *Conservative Reformation*, Little's popular treatise, *The Confessional Principle*. Schlink's book really is what the title announces it to be. It serves as a prolegomena to Dogmatics and is so used in Heidelberg. In eight chapters the author presents the chief *loci* of Christian dogmatics according to all the Confessional Writings of the Lutheran Church. Footnotes will acquaint the German student with all the relevant literature. Present economic conditions are such that our American readers will probably have to postpone ordering this book until a later date. It would be highly desirable to make this book available to our American theologians. In several instances, particularly concerning the Church, the Church and State, the reviewer could not agree with the author's interpretation of the Confessions; in other instances the American theologian employs different phraseology and may also move in other thought patterns. Particularly significant is the section on Law and Gospel and the chapter suggesting topics for study.

F. E. MAYER

**Studies in the Gospel According to St. Matthew.** By J. M. Weiden-schilling, M. A., S. T. D. Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis 18, Mo. 163 pages, 5×7½. Textbook, 65 cents. The Teacher's Guide of the same work (same size, 189 pages). \$1.00.

These are excellent books which receive our cordial endorsement. They naturally follow the chapter arrangement of the Gospel. Every chapter is subdivided into paragraphs with special headings. The Bible text is not reprinted. The material submitted gives explanations that are pertinent and helpful. The first one of these books (*Pupil's Guide*) has a paragraph appended to every lesson with the heading "For study and discussion." In the paragraph one finds questions or directions for study. The *Teachers' Guide* furnishes material with which the ordinary Bible reader, as a rule, is not acquainted.

W. ARNDT

**This Blest Communion!** A Series of Communion Sermons Based on the Common Service of Christendom. By Paul H. Burgdorf. Published by Northwestern Publishing House, Milwaukee, Wis. 208 pages, 5¼×8. \$2.00.

It was a very happy thought put into execution when Pastor Burgdorf preached a series of fifteen Communion sermons to his congregation, choosing Scripture texts as these were suggested by our common Communion Service printed in our Hymnal. Pastor Burgdorf says, "Almost every part of the Common Service is taken, word for word, from the Holy Scriptures. But since this is true, since our order of worship is made up for the most part of selections

from the inspired Word of God, and since it is meant to be an embodiment and expression of our faith, ought we not be more or less familiar with its meaning? Just what, in general, is its significance? And what does each one of its several parts mean to you in particular? It shall be my purpose, through a proper understanding of these things, to try to help make your Communion Service mean more to you than might otherwise be the case." (P. 3f.) Though our Christians are intelligent and sincere, yet it is to be feared that frequently they repeat words which they have learned and been accustomed to recite without being fully conscious of the meaning of these words for their spiritual life. It is somewhat an overstatement when the author says that if all people in this world would become Christians, then the world would again be a paradise. It was likely not intentional when the author quoted the words in Jer. 31:33: "I will put my law in their inward parts," as referring to the Mosaic law. According to the context, it refers to the Gospel promises. But such few inaccuracies do not mar the usefulness of the book. We heartily recommend it to our pastors. It may persuade them to explain the liturgy to their communicants in a similar way. Let us not take too much for granted as far as our church members are concerned, for then we deprive them of some of the blessings which they might otherwise enjoy.

J. H. C. FRITZ

**The Martin Luther Christmas Book**, with celebrated woodcuts by his contemporaries. Translated and arranged by Roland H. Bainton. Muhlenberg Press, Philadelphia. 76 pages. \$2.50. Order from Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis 18, Mo.

In this interesting volume, one of America's greatest Luther scholars, in excellent English dress, lets Martin Luther tell the story of Christmas according to the Gospels, from the Annunciation through to the Presentation. This is no mere effort, on part of the translator, to let the present generation know what Luther said and wrote about Christmas. The purpose of the volume evidently is this: To show that what the Great Reformer said four hundred years ago is as applicable to our generation as it was to his own. The translator states in a very searching introductory chapter: "The question was not whether God could or would make a special star, but why the Lord of the universe should care enough about us mortals to take our flesh and share our woes. The condescension of God was the great wonder. This it is that reason cannot fathom. . . . The manger and the cross are never far apart for Luther. . . . Bethlehem presaged Calvary. Confronted by the self-emptying of God, modern man stands on no other ground than that of Luther. For neither can faith be easy. For neither need it be impossible. That Luther, feeling as acutely as we all the difficulties, could yet believe—this may help our unbelief."

The book is illustrated with woodcuts by Duerer, Schongauer, and Altdorfer.

The translator also offers a translation of his own of Luther's greatest Christmas carol, "Vom Himmel hoch," which in this new English dress, we believe, retains the simple, childlike flavor of the original German in a most remarkable way. Here is Dr. Bain-

ton's version of one of the most-quoted stanzas: "O dear Lord Jesus, for your head Now I will make the softest bed. The chamber where this bed shall be Is in my heart, inside of me."

W. G. POLACK

**Calvinism An Interpretation of Its Basic Ideals. Vol. I.** By H. Henry Meeter. Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Mich. 233 pages, 6×9. \$3.50.

This is the second edition of Dr. Meeter's *Calvinism*, which first appeared in 1939. Dr. Meeter here offers to the reader a helpful guide to a systematic study of Calvinism. L. Berkhof, in a brief foreword to this second edition, draws attention to a renewed interest in the teachings of Calvin. This interest seems to be attested by the fact that arrangements have already been made to have this work translated into the Dutch language, and a request has come from Tokyo for permission to translate it into the Japanese language. The rapid changes on the political scene during the past decade have made the author's references to some of the political institutions of recent years quite obsolete. This, however, does not detract from the general merits of this useful manual on Calvinism. For a comprehensive review of this work see *CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL MONTHLY*, Vol. XII, No. 8 (Aug., 1941), pp. 639—640.

L. W. SPITZ

**Our Redeemer — A Cathedral of Gospel Art.** \$2.00 for the cloth cover; \$1.00 for the soft cover.

This is a 96-page description, both narrative and pictorial (138 illustration), of the art and architecture that went into the construction of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Chicago. Of singular interest are the excellent reproductions of the 43 wood carvings depicting the Sermon on the Mount. Church building committees in search of meaningful and distinctive ecclesiastical symbols may wish to order a copy. Write to Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 6430 S. Harvard Ave., Chicago 21.

PAUL BRETSCHER

**The Sunday School in Action.** By Clarence H. Benson. Moody Press, Chicago. 1947. 5×7¾, 327 pages. \$2.00.

This is the eighth printing of a very popular book which originally appeared in 1932 and was revised in 1941. Written from a conservative viewpoint, it is a book which pastors and Sunday school superintendents will want to read and study if they hope to make their Sunday schools more than the usual appendages to a program of Christian education. Dr. Benson has made the Sunday school a special study, and his experiences are reflected in the practical principles on administration set forth. The author's contention is that the average Sunday school is not *in action* and suffers from *inaction*; hence the title. Even the casual observer will have to agree with him, for the Church has not pushed the peculiar advantages of the Sunday school to their limits.

We regret that the opportunity was not used to revise the book at this time. The statistics and illustrations date back to 1932, having even escaped the revision of 1941. Here and there the author has permitted his enthusiasm to run away with him, when he says, for instance: "Multiplying and magnifying the Sunday school is

unquestionably the solution of juvenile delinquency" (p. 43). The publishers and the dates of the books listed in the bibliography would have been of considerable help. None of the recent books have been included, and the entire trend in the use of visual aids has been omitted.

ARTHUR C. REPP

**The King's Business.** A study book for councilmen by Wm. H. and Robert W. Stackel. The United Lutheran Publication House, Philadelphia, Pa. 64 pages, 4¾×7. 30 cents.

A fine little manual on the basis of which, with proper adaptations to our own congregational and synodical organization, a pastor can conduct a profitable training course for his church officers. The emphasis is placed on stewardship and finance.

O. E. SOHN

**Lands of the Cross and Crescent.** By Cyrus H. Gordon. Ventnor Publishers, Inc., Ventnor, N. J. 267 pages, 5½×8½. \$3.75.

Doctor Gordon, who has devoted his life to the study of the East, has lived in, and studied the language of, every country described in his book. He served in the Army throughout the war, and his assignments included the lands of the Middle East. He taught colloquial Arabic and Persian for the Army.

The book is essentially a background study of the Islamic countries in Part I and Christian countries in Part II. Thus in Part I we find descriptions of the geography, races, religions, customs, and history of Arabs and Muslims, Saudi Arabia, North Africa, Egypt, Transjordan, Palestine, Syria and Lebanon, Iraq, Turkey, and Iran; and, in Part II, Europe and Christendom, Italy, Vatican City, Germany, France, the British Isles, Sweden, and the United States of America. There is nothing dry about Gordon's style. For those desiring a fine background understanding of the countries of the Arab world this is a valuable book. For students wishing to study Islam or the history of missions in Moslem lands, this book is what is needed for the background study of these various lands.

A second edition should include a simple outline map of each country described in Part I.

E. C. ZIMMERMANN

**Christ—The Hope of Glory.** By Wm. Childs Robinson. Wm. B. Erdmans Publishing Co., Grand Rapids, Mich., 1947. 324 pages, 5½×8. \$3.00.

This is, as the subtitle indicates, a Christological eschatology. The Union Theological Seminary of Virginia, sponsoring the Sprunt lectureship, chose Dr. William Childs Robinson, professor of historical theology at Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Ga., to deliver the lectures which are here presented to the reader.

Dr. Robinson shows that he is familiar with the salient literature bearing on his subject. He quotes freely and refers to the writings of other men. His chief interest, however, is to direct his readers to the Bible as the only true source of knowledge regarding Christ—the Hope of Glory. He says: "What we do seek is that Christian thinking find its canon in the Christian revelation." He never leaves his readers in doubt concerning his point of view, declaring: "We start neither with an axiom of

reason nor with a datum of experience, but with what God has told us in His Word concerning Himself, His gracious intervention for our salvation, and the hope He has laid up for those who trust in Him." In pointing out that the entire structure of the Old Testament and the New involves the eschatological expectation, he directs attention to the perfect unity of the entire Bible as the Word of God. He finds Christ as the Savior from Genesis to Revelation and in the Old Testament as well as in the New the ultimate purpose of His redeeming work.

Dr. Robinson is prepared to find that some Christian brethren will differ with details of his eschatology. He presents some views with which men have differed. Some, for instance, will differ with him regarding his views on the conversion of Israel and the Antichrist. Dr. Robinson speaks of the Sacraments as seals; his Lutheran readers would prefer the term "means of grace."

In spite of any differences, however, the Christian reader will be edified by this volume. He cannot read it without a sense of the imminency of the coming of the Lord and his own vital place in the completed plan of redemption. It will make him rejoice in Christ his Savior and cause him to look forward to the blessed return of his risen and ascended Lord upon the throne of His glory.

L. W. SPRIZ

**Mahatma Gandhi. An Interpretation.** By E. Stanley Jones. Abingdon-Cokesbury Press, New York and Nashville, 1948. 160 pages, 8×5¼. \$2.00.

The publishers requested the author to write this book, since he is the Western Christian who has best known and most appreciated Gandhi through the years. Anyone who may have expected E. Stanley Jones to produce a syncretistic or overenthusiastic report of Gandhi's Christianity will be disappointed in this book. It is remarkably sober and factual in its appraisal of Gandhi's relation to Christianity. It is, however, enthusiastic in its regard for the significance of Gandhi to India. The thesis of the book is that Gandhi's mode of life, and his death, are devices of action and modes of redemption which are Christian in their method and therefore, regrettably for Christians, a witness which they left undone. While the full significance of Gandhi remains to be discerned, this book, early as it is, should nevertheless rank among the primary documents.

RICHARD R. CAEMMERER

#### BOOKS RECEIVED

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

Portals of Prayer No. 87. — "Mine Eyes Have Seen." Daily Devotions from Nov. 26 to Dec. 31, 1948. By Rev. H. W. Gockel. 10 cents each, postpaid.

Andachtsbuechlein No. 87. Die Grosstaten Gottes. German Daily Devotions from Nov. 25 to Dec. 31, 1948. By Rev. Herman Harms. 10 cents each, postpaid.

Am Krankenbette. By Rev. H. M. Zorn. 15 leaflets. 15 cents.

Ninety-Nine Questions and Answers on Christian Doctrine. By Rev. Wm. H. Eifert. 24 pages. 10 cents.

**Children's Christmas Services. Sing We All Noel.** By A. H. Stellhorn. **Christmas Joy.** By Wm. A. Kramer. Single copy, 7 cents.

**The Babe of Bethlehem.** By Arthur W. Gross. 14 pages. Single copy, 25 cents, postpaid; 12 copies 20 cents each, plus postage.

*From Doubleday & Company, Inc., New York 20, N. Y.:*

**A Treasury of Biblical Quotations.** Edited by Lester V. Berrey.  $5\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$ , 240 pages. \$2.45.

*From Hinrichsen Edition Limited, London, W. C. 1, England:*

**Thirteen Centuries of English Church Music.** By W. H. Parry. 1946. 64 pages,  $5 \times 7\frac{1}{2}$ . \$1.50. A handy and informative little compendium, prepared by a man who is a well-known music historian of England.  
WALTER E. BUSZIN

*From J. B. Lippincott Co., New York:*

**The Story of Jesus.** Arranged and edited from the King James Version by Bradford Smith.  $6\frac{1}{2} \times 4$ , 223 pages. \$1.95.

*From Lutheran Book Concern, Columbus, Ohio:*

**The Lord Thy Healer.** A book of devotions for the use of pastors when visiting the sick. By J. Sheatsley, D. D. Second edition.  $6 \times 4\frac{1}{4}$ , 280 pages. \$2.00.

*From Charles Scribner's Sons, New York:*

**Of Flight and Life.** By Charles A. Lindbergh.  $7\frac{1}{4} \times 5$ , 56 pages. \$1.50.

*From Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Mich.:*

**God Bless America and Other Sermons.** By Wm. Herschel Ford, D. D.  $5\frac{1}{4} \times 7\frac{3}{4}$ , 144 pages. \$1.00.

