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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.

The Theology of Martin Luther. By H. H. Kramm. James Clarke & Co., 5 Wardrobe Place, Carter Lane, London, E. C. 4. 152 pages, 8½×5½. \$2.00.

Dr. H. H. Kramm is minister of the German Lutheran Church of St. Maryle — Savoy, London, and of the Lutheran congregation at Oxford, England. In our own work among the Polish, Latvian, and other refugees in England, conducted under the supervision of Rev. E. George Pearce, he has proved himself an interested and helpful friend. The book first appeared in 1947 and was well received from the start. Its purpose is to defend Luther and his teachings against false charges raised against him in recent times. It is brief, but scholarly, the writer making use of some of the best modern works on Luther. In an "Introduction" he presents a general survey of Luther's Reformation movement and then treats the following doctrines: The Nature of Man, Salvation, the Church as the Body of Christ, the Ministry, Eschatology, Luther and the Bible, Church and State. In these seven chapters there is offered an abundance of doctrinal and historical information, attractively presented and well documented. The approach is novel and interesting, and the presentation of the material vivid and appealing. At times clearness has been sacrificed in the interest of brevity, and proper expansion of the subject matter would have been of benefit. In general, however, let it be said that here is a wholesome contribution to the modern literature on Luther made by a confessing Lutheran who is well acquainted with the great Reformer and his work and eager to make him favorably known among English-speaking students of church history. We recommend Dr. Kramm's *The Theology of Luther* to our readers for profitable study.

JOHN THEODORE MUELLER

Our Lord. An Affirmation of the Deity of Christ. By Wm. Childs Robinson. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., Grand Rapids, Mich. 1949. 198 pages, 8×5½. \$3.00.

This is the second and revised edition of a most valuable apologetic by Dr. Robinson of Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Ga., defending against manifold modern forms of liberalism the Christian belief that Jesus Christ is true God and the promised Messiah and Savior of the world. The author first points out to what absolutely negative results the so-called "quest of the historical Jesus," as attempted by Troeltsch, Schweitzer, S. J. Case, and many other religious naturalists, have led and then demonstrates in a number of convincing chapters that the witness of the New Testament concerning the divine Christ must stand as historically and doctrinally true. He proves himself intimately acquainted with naturalistic, mediating, and conservative modern scholars, and his references and quotations are numerous, carefully selected, and consistently helpful. We heartily recommend this excellent contribution to apologetic literature to theological students, pastors, and indoctrinated laymen. Here and there correc-

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tions are in place. The name of Troeltsch, for example, is written without the "t." Again, when E. Schaefer is quoted in his *Theozentrische Theologie* as saying: "I believe that I cannot believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him of my own reason or power, but the Holy Ghost has called me through the Gospel," this should have been credited to Luther's explanation of the Third Article, the original source. Though the book is not too long, nevertheless, because of the abundant detail which it offers, an index would greatly benefit the reader when using it for reference.

JOHN THEODORE MUELLER

The Biblical Doctrine of the Church. By William Robinson, M. A., D. D., S. T. D. The Bethany Press, St. Louis, Mo. 235 pages, 5x7½. \$2.50.

The author, professor of theology at Overdale College, Birmingham, England, delivered the eight lectures published in this volume at Butler University, founded and supported by the Disciples of Christ. The author espouses in the main the same visible ecumenicity of the Church and the same antidenominational principles which Thos. Campbell set forth in his Declaration and Address (1809) and which are still characteristic of the ecclesiology among the Disciples of Christ.

F. E. MAYER

Why the Cross? By the late Archdeacon H. E. Guillebaud, M. A. The Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship, 64 East Lake St., Chicago. 206 pages, 4½x7. \$2.25.

In the Foreword to the first edition the late author stated that he purposed to examine and to refute the reason which liberal theology raises against the Vicarious Atonement. He presents the objections under two questions: Is a substitutionary atonement Christian? and, Is substitution immoral or incredible? In his answers we noted an exceptionally clear distinction between Law and Gospel, between God's wrath and His love in Christ. This little study is not at all polemical, but delightfully refreshing in its presentation of the central theme of our Christian faith.

F. E. MAYER

The Trial of Jesus Christ. By Frank J. Powell. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., Grand Rapids, Mich. 1949. 160 pages, 5½ by 8½. \$2.00.

Magistrate Powell, called to the bar in 1921, has practiced extensively at various British courts. After his appointment to Clerkenwell Magistrate's Court he demonstrated his literary ability by contributing the regular feature in the London *Evening News* entitled "The Courts Day by Day." His profound interest in the trial of Jesus may be attributed to the fact that for many years he has been a lay preacher and a student of Scripture. His legal experience has qualified him to speak with professional authority on matters of court procedure.

On the basis of the Mishnah and of Roman law Mr. Powell reviews the trial of Jesus before Annas and Caiaphas, Herod, and Pilate. His analysis of the facts of the case and of the chief actors in the drama has led him to the irrefutable conclusion that "Jesus of Nazareth, Messiah of the Jews and Savior of the world, was murdered."

In a final chapter the author sketches the harrowing events leading up to and including the siege and destruction of Jerusalem and comments on the status of the Jews since that time and now. He concludes this interesting book with the significant statement: "The choice before the world is still: Christ or Barabbas."

L. W. SPRIZ

The Church's Ministry. By T. W. Manson. The Westminster Press, Philadelphia. 1949. 114 pages, 5×7½. \$2.00.

Dr. T. W. Manson, Rylands Professor of Biblical Criticism and Exegesis in the University of Manchester, presents this book with the earnest hope that it may do something to make Christian people of all denominations more keenly aware of their real unity in the body of Christ, a unity which, he believes, the so-called "unhappy divisions" may obscure but cannot destroy. He shares the opinion of Dr. Henry Sloane Coffin, who wrote the Preface. Dr. Coffin believes that in recent negotiations for church union no subject has proved more of an obstacle than that of basic differences in the conception of the Church and of its ministry. He has in mind particularly the difficulty of reconciling the "catholic" and the "evangelical" views of the Church and of the ministry.

In 1946 the Bishop of Oxford set forth the "catholic" view of the so-called apostolic succession in a book entitled *The Apostolic Ministry*. In reply to this book Dr. Manson presents the "evangelical" view. He has undertaken to show that there is no historical evidence nor Scriptural proof for the "catholic" view of the "apostolic succession." His reflections on the Hebrew term *shaliach* and its Greek equivalent *apostolos* are especially interesting.

Many readers will not agree with all of Dr. Manson's isagogical and hermeneutical inferences, nor will they join in his plea for the mutual eligibility of the ministers of all Christian groups and for free access for the members of any Christian communion to the Lord's Table in any church of any Christian communion. God's Word has issued some restraining orders which must not be disregarded.

L. W. SPRIZ

Das Evangelische Schrifttum. (No author.) Ueberreicht durch Lutheraner Verlag, Frankfurt am Main, Taunusstr. 43. No price given. (Suggested price, approximately, 50 cents.)

This is a systematic index of all new theological publications in German during the first half of 1949. Approximately 450 authors and publications are listed. Some are detailed studies in the field of exegesis and dogmatics, others deal with the work of the Church under the present situation, others are of a devotional nature for the laity. A list of 27 theological and semi-theological journals are catalogued. It appears from this tract that German theologians are hard at work in their attempt to supply the serious need of literature for the theologian and the lay Christian. The books listed can be ordered through the *Lutheraner Verlag* or through Concordia Publishing House.

F. E. MAYER

The Light in Dark Ages. Eighteen Centuries of Missions from the Giving of the Great Commission to the Beginning of Modern Missions under William Carey. By V. Raymond Edmon, President, Wheaton College. Van Kampen Press, Wheaton, Ill. 1949. 435 pages. Indexed. \$4.00.

This is a very acceptable history of Christian missions before Carey and may well serve as a basis for study groups in our churches. The text is well documented, and there is an excellent bibliography as well as a good working index. The average person will read the volume with interest, as the author commands a good style and has interspersed enough human-interest material to keep it from becoming just another textbook on the history of missions.

W. G. POLACK

Every Pastor a Counselor. By Stanley E. Anderson. Van Kampen Press, 222 E. Willow St., Wheaton, Ill. 111 pages, 7½ by 5. \$1.50.

Older People and the Church. By Paul B. Maves and J. Lennart Cedarleaf. Abingdon-Cokesbury Press, New York. 272 pages, 9×6. \$2.50.

We enjoyed reading both of these volumes. The writer of the former states: "The author is convinced that the Christian faith is the best insurance against the need for mental clinics. But it must be applied, and at the right time. . . . The Gospel of Christ must be given to 'heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives (of sin),' and thus prove that Christ is able to save unto the uttermost. The Gospel is still the power of God unto salvation to all who believe, and we are obligated to apply it with every legitimate tool of modern psychology. But let us not, like some, discard the Savior for mere tools. . . . The most helpful qualities in a minister are his love for people, knowledge of life, cheerfulness, faith, intelligence, flexibility, moral integrity, patience, persistence, humility, and prayer." In the main this little volume aims to analyze and classify the various types of people who are in need of counseling and then to give helpful hints. There is much useful material stored up on these pages which lay constant stress on the use of Scripture and prayer. One of the appendices gives a list of pertinent Scripture passages for specific needs which could be amplified and made even more effective by a more generous use of gems from the Psalms.

The second volume concentrates on a special phase of counseling, namely, gerontology and geriatrics, the science of dealing with older people. It aims to set forth the peculiarities of the aging process and thus enable the pastor to achieve a maximum efficiency in helping the older members of his flock. There are many fine features in this volume, among them some revealing statistics bearing on the subject and a fine discussion of group work in this field. The most important chapters in our estimation are "The Foundations of Pastoral Care" and "The Principles and Methods of Pastoral Care," where a Lutheran pastor will know how to supply the needed Gospel emphasis. There are also several chapters on the various social services which the State offers with respect to the aged. At the close we find an extensive bibliography on this subject. While it doubtless is true that our pastors have always endeavored to take proper care of those who are in the years in which there is no pleasure, yet this volume will help us to gain a better analysis and appreciation of this phase of our work and thus to increase our efficiency.

O. E. SOHN

I Would Do It Again. By F. E. Davison. The Bethany Press, St. Louis, Mo. 5×7¾, 158 pages. \$2.00.

This little volume is another of those books from which one may gain some valuable hints for the practical ministry, from which, however, one does not learn wherein the true Christian ministry consists. Much on the problems of living, but nothing on the nature, power, and blessings of the Gospel of Christ Crucified.

O. E. SOHN

Shalom Means Peace. By Robert St. John. Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1949. Garden City, N. Y. 335 pages, 5½×8¼. \$2.95.

This is not a theological work. It is the vivid account of a war correspondent of conditions and events in Palestine after World War II, especially in 1947 and 1948. It will be appreciated by people who are making a study of ethnic, economic, social, and political factors and developments. The technique of the author is to introduce various characters and let them tell their story. The point of view is altogether that of a Jewish sympathizer. Some descriptions, like those of Nazareth, Mount Carmel, and the Sea of Galilee will aid the Bible reader as he studies what the Scriptures say about these localities.

W. ARNDT

The Twain Shall Be One. By Ada A. Snyder. Biblion Press, 257 South Spring St., Los Angeles 12, Calif. 40 pages, 7½×5. \$1.00.

The title page describes this little booklet as the Bible way to a successful marriage. Throughout its forty pages the author classifies and prints in full pertinent Bible passages on Marriage, Home, and Family, stressing not only spousal duties, but the many Christian virtues the practice of which has such a tremendous influence upon the formation and preservation of a happy marriage and home. The book is intended as a gift by the officiating pastor to the newly married and therefore contains a simple marriage certificate. It is attractively bound, but the price seems a trifle high.

O. E. SOHN

Vital Facts of Life. By the Rev. C. H. Harman and E. W. Marquardt, M. D. Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo. 126 pages, 8½×5¾. \$1.75.

Assuming that the alarming sex delinquency and disregard for the sanctity of marriage of our day is due in large measure to ignorance on the part of young people in these matters, the authors set out to give a frank, factual, and Scriptural volume on sex which is intended for the diligent perusal of adolescents. We believe that job has been chastely and well done, treating as it does such matters as sex knowledge and hygiene, courtship, betrothal, marriage, social diseases, and alcoholism. Especially impressive are the chapters on the right use of leisure time and on Christian character and living. The last two chapters are somewhat repetitious. The language employed would indicate that the book is intended for adolescents on the upper high school level. They will read it with profit, and pastors will do well to recommend it.

O. E. SOHN

BOOKS RECEIVED

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

Portals of Prayer No. 94. — From Genesis to Revelation. Daily Devotions from Nov. 10 to Dec. 31, 1949. By Rev. W. H. Eifert of Indianapolis, Ind. 10 cents.

Andachtsbuechlein No. 94. Freude in dem Herrn. Andachten ueber Sprueche aus dem Brief an die Philipper — fuer die Zeit vom 10. Nov. bis zum 31. Dez. 1949. By Rev. H. J. Bouman, D. D., of Minneapolis, Minn. 10 cents.

From Grosset and Dunlap, New York, N. Y.:

Prayers — Ancient and Modern. Selected by Mary W. Tileston — 380 pages, 4×6. 75 cents.

From The Wartburg Press, Columbus, Ohio:

How Do You Do. By Edward Kuhlmann. 188 pages, 5½ by 8. \$2.00.

From Association Press, New York 17, N. Y.:

This Business of Living. By Percy R. Hayward. 159 pages, 5½×8¼. \$2.00.

From Augustana Book Concern, Rock Island, Ill.:

My Heart's Desire. By Maynard Force. 152 pages, 5½×8. \$1.75.

From Augsburg Publishing House, Minneapolis 15, Minn.:

Lars Wilhelm Boe. By Erik Hetle. 203 pages, 6×8¾. \$2.50.

From Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, Mich.:

Victory Over Suffering. By W. Goulooze. 150 pages, 5¼ by 7¼. \$2.00.

From Christian Beacon Press, Collinswood, N. J.:

Modern Tower of Babel. By Carl McIntire. 304 pages, 5½ by 8¼. \$1.50.

From Lutheran Publishing House, Blair, Nebr.:

The Founder of St. Ansgar. By H. Fred Swansen. 230 pages, 5¼×8. \$2.25.

From Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Mich.:

Youthspiration Handbook. By George F. Santa. 102 pages, 6×9. \$1.00.

From Abingdon-Cokesbury Press, Nashville:

The Adventure of Prayer. By Donald J. Campbell. 92 pages, 5¼×7½. \$1.25.

