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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 South Jefferson Avenue, St. Louis 18, Missouri

BIBLE HISTORY DIGEST. By Elmer W.K. Mould, Ph. D., Alexander Cameron Mackenzie Professor of Biblical History and Literature, Elmira College. Exposition Press, New York. 201 pages, 5½x9. \$3.00.

For effective teaching of the contents of the Bible some knowledge of the historic framework is required in which the great events depicted in the Scriptures occurred. The Bible class leader and Sunday school teacher will have to know not only that Samuel lived in the days of the Old Covenant, but, in addition, that he was not a contemporary of Amos or Obadiah. The book here announced aims to provide such a framework; a survey of the history of Israel with the necessary correlation touching the history of the surrounding nations is given. The work is brimful of pertinent information. Charts and maps which make it easy to follow the instruction of the author are included.

Where it was easiest for me to check Dr. Mould's views, in the section pertaining to the New Testament, I found his presentation fairly reliable. My only serious criticism is that it might have been more full and detailed with reference to dates. It is true that here we have to rely somewhat on conjectures; but these, when advanced with the proper caution, have their value and make the course of developments intelligible to the beginner. In the Old Testament area my chief criticism is that it does not come to grips with the statement (1 Kings 6:1) that the building of the Temple on the part of Solomon was begun in the 480th year after the Children of Israel had come out of Egypt and in the 4th year of Solomon's reign. It is assumed in the book that Solomon began his reign about 971. Construction of the Temple accordingly must have started about 967. This reckoning would put the Exodus from Egypt at 1447. But Dr. Mould thinks it occurred in the twelfth century. He concedes (p. 34) that archaeological data compel us to place the fall of Jericho into the fourteenth century and that hence the Exodus from Egypt must have occurred before 1400, which would at least in a general way agree with the date 1447 mentioned above; but he holds there are other considerations which compel us to place the flight from Egypt later. In spite of some minor formal imperfections of the book, and especially in spite of its evidently liberal view of the inspiration of the Scriptures, the pastor who would like to inform himself on the historical aspects of the contents of the Bible will here find a valuable guide.

W. F. ARNDT

LECTURES ON THE LAST THINGS. By William Hendriksen. Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, Mich., 1951. 65 pages, 5½×7½. \$1.50.

Dr. Hendriksen is at present Professor of New Testament Exegetical Theology at Calvin Seminary. The three lectures in this small volume bespeak his competence in Biblical exposition. The titles of the lectures are: "The Sign of His Coming"; "Our Lord's Return"; "By the Sea of Crystal."

L. W. SPITZ

RYLE'S EXPOSITORY THOUGHTS ON THE GOSPELS. By J. C. Ryle. Anniversary Edition. Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Mich. Four volumes, 6×9. \$4.95 each.

J. C. Ryle (1816—1900) was a worthy, gifted member of the Church of England and in 1880 was made Bishop of Liverpool. Writing must have been as natural for him as eating and sleeping, because we have numerous works from his pen. It seems, most popular of all his productions is the work here brought out in a new edition. To help the reader in his endeavor to visualize the character of the expositions offered anew, it ought to be stated that in the first volume the notes on Matthew cover 413, those on Mark 370, pages of fairly large and extremely legible print. The structure of the work is this: A section of the Authorized Version is printed in small type, as, for instance, Matt. 1:1-17 at the beginning of the notes on Matthew; then follow the comments, which are edifying rather than exegetically penetrating. The Bible teacher and the preacher will find many precious thoughts here which his hearers will receive with gratitude. As one reads page after page, one marvels at the Scripture knowledge which distinguished the author. To quote Bible passages which lie at some distance from the much-cited prooftexts required no effort on his part. The theology of Bishop Ryle is that of the Reformed churches, generally speaking. Thus with reference to the Lord's Supper he contends that "This is My body" means "This represents My body." His argumentation in support of his position is that of the rationalists of all ages. "The natural body of Christ cannot be at one time in more places than one" (p. 356, commentary on Matthew). In conclusion it should be mentioned that the deity of Christ and His saviorhood are warmly set forth and defended.

W. F. ARNDT

EXPOSITION ON THE BOOK OF ESTHER. By J. Vernon McGee. Van Kampen Press, Wheaton, Ill. 76 pages, 5×7½. \$1.50.

The chapters of this book were given as a series of evening sermons in the Church of the Open Door, Los Angeles, Calif. On the basis of the Book of Esther, the author, a Presbyterian pastor, endeavors to show that God controls the destiny of the world. Some illustrative data need checking. For instance, Xerxes' fleet was not destroyed in the Adriatic. But of much greater importance is the fact that the author believes in Christ as the Savior.

L. W. SPITZ

VARIOUS REPRINTS OF BOOKS OF F. B. MEYER.

1. **TRIED BY FIRE.** Expositions of the First Epistle of Peter. Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, Mich. 1950. \$2.50.
2. **THE WAY INTO THE HOLIEST.** Expositions of the Epistle to the Hebrews. Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, Mich. 1951. 277 pages, $5\frac{1}{4} \times 7\frac{3}{4}$. \$2.50.
3. **GOSPEL OF JOHN. THE LIFE AND LIGHT OF MEN. LOVE TO THE UTTERMOST.** Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Mich. 384 pages, $5\frac{1}{2} \times 9$. \$3.50.
4. **PETER, FISHERMAN, DISCIPLE, APOSTLE.** Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Mich. 190 pages, $5\frac{1}{4} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$. \$2.50.
5. **CHRIST IN ISAIAH.** Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Mich. 191 pages, $5\frac{1}{4} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$. \$2.50.

It is a pleasure to draw attention to the fact that these useful books of F. B. Meyer, a prominent evangelist of the past generation, are again made available. The author was born in London on April 8, 1847. He was a member of the Baptist denomination and served a number of Baptist churches in Great Britain. Twelve times he came to America and preached his evangelistic messages. His death took place on March 28, 1929. F. B. Meyer was a gifted author and pulpiteer. He writes with warmth and a love for souls. His statements cannot in every instance receive our endorsement, but the general outlook is that of an evangelical Christian. Pastors will find what is offered here a treasure house as they study the respective sections of Holy Scripture.

W. F. ARNDT

BOOKS RECEIVED

From Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Missouri:

PORTALS OF PRAYER. Daily Devotions No. 106, "Great Questions—Simple Answers." By Wm. A. Kramer. July 29, 1951, to September 18, 1951. 10 cents.

ANDACHTSBUECHLEIN No. 106. "Ganz freie Gnade." By H. M. Zorn. 29. Juli bis zum 18. September 1951. 10 cents.

From Association Press, New York 7, N. Y.:

STEPPING STONES OF THE SPIRIT. By Patricia Bever. 95 pages, $5\frac{1}{4}$ by $7\frac{1}{2}$. \$1.75.

From Augsburg Publishing House, Minneapolis, Minn.:

INSTRUCTOR'S MANUAL FOR TEN STUDIES IN PRAYER. By Emil Erpstad. 29 pages, $5\frac{1}{4} \times 7\frac{3}{4}$. 50 cents.

From Van Kampen Press, Wheaton, Ill.:

PARK STREET PROPHET—THE STORY OF HAROLD OCKENGA. By Harold Lindsell. 175 pages, $5\frac{1}{2} \times 7\frac{3}{4}$. \$2.25.