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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.*

**THE LORD'S PRAYER.** Its Character, Purpose and Interpretation. By E. F. Scott. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1951. 5¾ × 8¼, vii and 127 pages. \$2.25.

A former professor of Biblical theology at Union Theological Seminary herewith presents a little book by which he desires to make men think when they pray the Lord's Prayer. "His object was to frame a prayer which did not consist of formal words but which would compel men to think of what they said. For this reason it is composed of short sentences with pauses between them in which the mind might react on the words spoken." (P. vi.) A number of emphases in the volume are helpful: the Lord's Prayer is a list of the simplest and primary needs of man (p. 74); the Lord's Prayer reveals a background of Jewish thought and language, but completely transcends any parallel; it is "not a series of petitions but a single prayer, all springing naturally out of the same root" (p. 61). Some shortcomings strike this reviewer: the Spirit that accompanies the prayer of the Christian is an "inner glow" (p. 67); the Kingdom is not defined accurately, although the author points out that it is already here and yet at the same time is the object of the Christian hope (p. 92); the prayer for daily bread is discussed chiefly from the point of view of what we pray for, rather than the attitude of trust and dependence which we are praying for; and the relation of the praying Christian to the Father by means of Jesus Christ and His redemption is not discussed and those attitudes of prayer are substituted which are common to men of any faith (the closest forthright statement is on p. 124). These strictures do not negate the fact that Dr. Scott's book is highly stimulating and succeeds in its purpose, namely, to make us think the Lord's Prayer through.

RICHARD R. CAEMMERER

**A FRESH APPROACH TO THE NEW TESTAMENT.** By H. G. G. Herklotz. Abingdon-Cokesbury Press, New York. 176 pages, 8 × 6. \$2.00.

The author of this book seeks to clarify and defend the thesis that to understand the New Testament one must consider the missionaries themselves, their message and the field in which it was proclaimed, the rival faiths with which they had to contend, and the factors in the message and in the life produced by it which made the missionary movement of the early Christian missionaries so very successful. The key to the understanding of the New Testament documents, according to his view, is that they are propagandist literature of a widespread and successful missionary

movement (p. 15). While there are many elements of fact in the writer's thesis, it is difficult to agree with him that the Gospels of Matthew and Luke were written for the church in Rome shortly after the Neronian persecution in A. D. 64 and that Mark's Gospel was composed much later, perhaps as late as A. D. 130. This "fresh approach" will find little scholarly support; it is true also that the author's too narrow premise leaves out of consideration the principal factor that must be considered in the study of the New Testament, namely, the divine impulse and guidance which made the Apostles inspired messengers of Christ both to establish the Christian Church and to give it its divinely inspired Bible (cp. Eph. 2:20).

JOHN THEODORE MUELLER

**THE TABERNACLE, PRIESTHOOD, AND OFFERINGS.** By Rev. I. M. Halde-  
man. Fleming H. Revell Co., New York. 408 pages, 8×6. \$3.00.

The reviewer was deeply impressed with the unflinching faith and deep piety of the author of this book, pastor of First Baptist Church, New York, N. Y., and author of a number of books on Bible study. In the Old Testament tabernacle, priesthood, and offerings he everywhere sees types of Christ, "Real Man and Very God," each type of symbol "being occupied not with an ethical, but only and always with a sacrificial Christ." In thirty-eight chapters he demonstrates in detail how the Levitical priesthood and worship foreshadowed Jesus, the Antitype of the entire Old Testament symbolism. To prove his point, he quotes the New Testament, often with great force and fitness. Occasionally, the reviewer believes, his applications go too far, and now and then his Calvinistic prejudice leads him to misinterpret Scripture. He thus states that, before the resurrection of Christ, the Holy Spirit, while dwelling in the believers, never abode in them as a continued guest, so that David could cry: "Take not Thy Holy Spirit from me" (Ps. 51:11). But after Christ's resurrection the Holy Spirit will never leave the child of God nor be taken away from the genuine believer, so that no child of God, taught of the Lord, can offer that prayer today. Believers may grieve Him; they may resist Him; they may quench Him as a flame of fire in the soul, but He is never taken out of them (p. 407 f.). This is the old Calvinistic error that while the believer may lose the exercise of faith, he can never lose faith itself.

JOHN THEODORE MUELLER

**THE MAIN TRAITS OF CALVIN'S THEOLOGY.** By Bela Vasady. Wm. B.  
Eerdmans Publishing Co., Grand Rapids, Mich. 43 pages, 9×6.  
\$1.00.

For many years Dr. Vasady was a leading figure in the Reformed Church of Hungary, where he served as professor of Reformed theology at the University of Debrecen, as president of the theological department of the 400-year-old Reformed College of that city, and as secretary of the Hungarian Ecumenical Council. He came to America in 1946 as visiting professor to Princeton Seminary, McCormick Seminary in Chicago, and

Fuller Seminary in Pasadena, Calif., lecturing on "The Theology of the Institutes." This volume is a revised rendering of the original text written in the Magyar language. To the American reader it may appear as rather strange both in its approach and its technique, since it is decidedly European. The author concerns himself with the basic aspects of Calvin's theology, which he calls "Belief-ful Pragmatism"; "Belief-ful Realism"; "Belief-ful Totalitarianism"; "Belief-ful Antinomism." Organically and reciprocally these are interrelated, but it is "belief-ful" totalitarianism which supplies the dominant note. Through prayer, which is distinctly totalitarian in nature, these different underlying beliefs come into organic expression and assume a rightful position to God's sovereignty. Dr. Vasady writes: "Never since St. Paul has anyone given voice in a more classical manner to the unconditional demands of belief-ful totalitarianism than did the humble servant of the Lord, John Calvin." Though somewhat queer in expression and presentation, the book makes interesting and instructive reading. Against modern "Kultur-Protestantismus" and humanistic liberalism it offers orthodox Calvinism as the corrective of present-day theological drifting. It is understood, of course, that the author uses the terms "Pragmatism," "Agnosticism," and others in a sense peculiar to his theological belief.

JOHN THEODORE MUELLER

**DEMOCRACY AND THE QUAKER METHOD.** By Francis E. Pollard, Beatrice E. Pollard, and Robert S. W. Pollard. Philosophical Library, New York, 1950. 5×7½, 160 pages. \$3.00.

Three British Quakers collaborate in a little book which contains a number of technical chapters of interest to the church historian, including "a number of recorded discussions on highly controversial subjects which have taken place in the Society of Friends." These are set forth as cases illustrative of the "Quaker Method" of discussion, and a major chapter proposes to provide the "application of Quaker methods to other bodies" (pp. 71—98). To oversimplify, the "Quaker method" involves a method of discussion which dispenses with voting and majority decisions and arrives at a concerted judgment or "united decision" after a process of communication and clarification. In America the chief illustration of this method has been the State Department's Committee on Atomic Energy and its procedures under David Lilienthal. The application of this method to the work of the church, both to administration and to doctrinal controversy, seems almost mandatory.

RICHARD R. CAEMMERER

**THE DAGGER AND THE CROSS.** An Examination of Christian Pacifism. By Culbert G. Rutenber. Fellowship Publications, 21 Audubon Ave., New York 32, N. Y., c. 1950. 5½×8, 134 pages. \$1.00.

The professor of the philosophy of religion at Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary herewith presents an acute study of pacifism as it seeks to buttress itself on Christian premises. He seems to advocate not simply

quietism, but a vigorous attack upon the sources of war. From the point of view of Lutheran theology his utilization of Romans 13 is insufficient, in fact, it is negligible. Thus the relating of love to the activities of government is likewise undermined. This is not to slur Professor Rutenber's discussion as a whole, which is rich in its documentations and thoughtful in the extreme. The basic question still remains: Does the sword of Romans 13 involve functions of war and therefore activities which Christian love will support?

RICHARD R. CAEMMERER

EVANGELISCH-LUTHERISCHE KIRCHENZEITUNG, published biweekly by Lutherisches Verlaghaus, Berlin-Spandau, Evang. Johannestift. Quarterly, D.M. 5:10. Order from publisher.

We have read this Lutheran publication for several years and consider it one of the best theological periodicals appearing in Germany today. Dr. Ernst Kinder of the Augustana Hochschule in Neuendettelsau is the editor. Dr. Kinder only recently completed a survey of American Lutheran seminaries. In its August 31 issue the *Kirchenzeitung* offers the following articles and notes: Der Katechumenat der Kirche; Geschichte und Eigenart der ev.-luth. Landeskirche Hannovers; Fragen des geistlichen Amtes im Lichte der Prophetie Jeremias; Nachrichten und Buecherrezensionen. Each issue contains sixteen pages in a format slightly larger than the *Lutheran Witness*.

F. E. MAYER

#### BOOKS RECEIVED

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

CONCORDIA BIBLE STUDENT, Vol. XLI, No. 1, October-December, 1951.  
"The Life of the Apostle Peter." 65 cents per annum.

CONCORDIA BIBLE TEACHER, Vol. XIII, No. 1, October-December, 1951.  
"The Life of the Apostle Peter." \$1.00 per annum.

Edited by Rev. John M. Weidenschilling, S. T. D., under the auspices of the Board for Parish Education, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS, Tract No. 182. By H. G. Brueggemann. 30 pages. 10 cents postpaid.

ST. PAUL'S LETTER TO THE GALATIANS. An Interpretive Paraphrase. By E. M. Plass. 4½×6, 31 pages. 10 cents each.