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## Book Review. - Literatur

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## BOOK REVIEW

**EVANGELISM, CHRIST'S IMPERATIVE COMMISSION.** By Roland Q. Leavell. Broadman Press, Nashville, Tenn., c. 1951. XIII + 234 pages, 5¾ × 8¼. \$3.00.

The author is professor of evangelism at the Baptist Theological Seminary of New Orleans. He has prepared this book as a textbook for his courses. It includes much information presented thetically and provides bibliographies. Five chapters give a brief survey of evangelism in the history of the Church. Over half of the book outlines programs of evangelism by the Church and methods of personal evangelism. Each chapter provides suggestions for special study. A brief index is included.

RICHARD R. CAEMMERER

**20 CONFIRMATION SERMONS.** By Pastors of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. Augsburg Publishing House, Minneapolis, Minn. 1951. 226 pages, 5½ × 8. \$3.00.

Again Augsburg produces an interesting collection of sermons, this time for the confirmation services of catechumen classes. They vary remarkably in method, and hence the volume will be stimulating for the pastor to read through in sequence, by way of refreshing his own preparation of confirmation sermons. This preparation is apt to be slighted, because it falls into one of the busiest seasons of the preacher's year. Some of these sermons stress the content and the program of training which the class has received, others the Sacrament of which they are about to commune, others the witness of the Christian life in which they are to engage, and still others the significance of the Church and membership in it. To this reviewer a confirmation sermon ought to stress the Church as the body of Christ and our membership in it through Baptism and by faith in the redeeming work of our Lord. Reading a volume like this reminds of the fact that there is no substitute in catechetical training or preaching for the warm and personal relation of the pastor to the hearers and the catechumens.

RICHARD R. CAEMMERER

**THE LUTHERAN ORDER OF SERVICES.** By Paul H. D. Lang. Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo. 58 pages, 5 × 7½. 50 cents.

A simple discussion of our Lutheran orders of service prepared largely for the laity of the Church. It includes explanations of Lutheran orders of service in general, of the Order of Morning Service With and Without Communion, Matins, Vespers, Paraments, and Posture. The booklet can serve as an excellent basis for discussion of our liturgical practices and heritage for various groups of a parish which is intent upon using the worship materials of our Church intelligently and with understanding. Pastor Lang's presentation remains clear and sober throughout.

WALTER E. BUSZIN



**VOICE OF THE HEART (CARDIPHONIA).** By John Newton. Moody Press, Chicago. 1950. 432 pages, 8¾ × 5¾. \$3.50.

John Newton's *Cardiphonia* merits indeed to be part of *The Wycliffe Series of Christian Classics*, a series which is to include about forty reprints released by the Moody Press. The series is to consist of "books which have shaped the spiritual thinking of generations of Christians, but which for many years have been found only in the libraries of successful collectors." The present volume includes also a biographical sketch of the author, written by William Culbertson. The author, John Newton, whose hymn "Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken" is sung by practically all English-speaking Christians, was likewise the author of the famous collection *The Olney Hymns*, published in 1770. From these hymns as well as from his *Voice of the Heart* one would never conclude that the author had once been "an infidel and libertine, a servant of slaves in Africa." He was brought to the knowledge of his need for a Savior from sin during four long weeks in which he and the other members of the crew faced death aboard a disabled sailing vessel that tossed and drifted in the grip of a violent storm. In 1780 Newton became the rector of St. Mary Woolnoth, in London. It was during this rectorship that he became famous. He died on December 21, 1807. — While Newton's *Cardiphonia* discusses the need for sanctification in the life of man, he does not go to extremes and become pietistic or purely moralistic. He refers often to the fact that a sanctified life is to be lived out of love for Christ, crucified and risen again. Since the volume is really a compilation of letters he wrote to people of various walks of life, it is not surprising to note that the author repeats himself quite often. Several letters are naturally more interesting, inspiring, and devotional than others. We refer particularly to Letters XII, XV, XVI, XXI, and XXIII, all of which are outstanding indeed. Letter XVI, which treats Psalm 23, deserves to be published in pamphlet form, as do also other letters which will bring relief and clarification to the distressed and confused soul.

WALTER E. BUSZIN

**BIBLE LIGHT ON DAILY LIFE.** By Philip E. Howard, Jr. Van Kampen Press, Wheaton, Ill. 1951. 211 pages, 5¼ × 8. \$2.25.

A thoroughly evangelical devotional book which is a compilation of editorial notes the author has written for his columns in the *Sunday School Times*. While Mr. Howard's style is quite prosaic and at times even somewhat commonplace, his volume will give satisfaction to those who seek not inspiration, but rather simple words of homely assurance.

WALTER E. BUSZIN

**EUROPE AND AMERICA, THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WORLD CHURCH.** By Daniel Jenkins. The Westminster Press, Philadelphia, c. 1951. 72 pages, 5¼ × 7¾. \$1.50.

The young author of this book is a Congregational minister in England who gained his ecumenical interests from J. H. Oldham and bases this



brief study upon impressions received while a Commonwealth Fund Fellow in the United States for one year. He also was a visiting Professor of Ecumenical Theology at the University of Chicago in 1950. He is modest about his appraisal of American Protestantism. Yet his remark seems appropriate:

... The churches have the resources to maintain the vast institutional structure that they are building. What America needs is a deeper knowledge of what it means to be the Church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth, built upon the foundation of the prophets and apostles with Jesus Christ as the chief cornerstone. America needs a theology that will give it the maturity, judgment, and power of self-criticism to handle power and wealth responsibly and a structure of church organization that will express and not obscure the essential nature of the common life of the people of God. (P. 39.)

Mr. Jenkins believes that although it is very necessary for the miracle to happen to wealthy America, it will nevertheless "enter into the kingdom of God" despite its riches. American isolationists will do well here to get a just impression of the seriousness and theological concern for the church of the European Ecumenical Movement, and American liberals will here find a sobering call to a more genuine theology.

RICHARD R. CAEMMERER

**ATHEISM'S FAITH AND FRUITS.** By James D. Bales. W. A. Wilde Company, Boston. 1951. 176 pages. \$2.25.

The author successfully demonstrates that modern atheism is not primarily concerned about establishing evidences for its basic premises, but rather about attacking and seeking to destroy belief in theism. Atheism, too, as he shows, has its creed, albeit a creed whose validity it is far more difficult to demonstrate than a creed which confesses faith in God. The book is a fine addition to current Christian apologetical literature.

PAUL M. BRETSCHER

#### BOOKS RECEIVED

*From Men's Club, Belmont Methodist Church, Nashville, Tenn.:*

**OUR GOD IS ABLE and Other Sermons.** By John L. Ferguson. 5½×8. 174 pages. \$2.50.

*From Moody Press, Chicago 10, Ill.:*

**THE BIBLE AND MODERN SCIENCE.** By Henry M. Morris. 5¼×7¾. 191 pages. \$2.50.

**FAMOUS MESSAGES OF WILLIAM R. NEWELL.** 5¼×7¾, 251 pages. \$3.00.

*From Fleming H. Revell Company, Westwood, N. J.:*

**FOUNDATIONS OF THE FAITH.** Twelve Studies in the Basic Christian Revelation. Edited by David J. Fant. 5½×8, 189 pages. \$2.50.