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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 NEW TESTAMENT IN MODERN SPEECH. By Richard Francis Weymouth, M. A., D. Lit. Harper and Brothers, New York, N. Y. 457 pages, 4¾×7. \$3.50.

This widely-known and popular translation of the New Testament originally appeared in 1903 accompanied by brief instructions to the various books and footnotes. The present edition, brought out by Harper and Brothers, contains only the English text of the New Testament except for a very limited number of section headings. The type is of a kind that can be easily read. The paper is thin, so that the volume is very handy. Quotations from the Old Testament are printed entirely in capitals. Both as to accuracy and literary quality, Weymouth's translation of the New Testament still holds its place in the front rank of modern Bible translations. In view of the great interest which has developed in recent decades to have the Bible in present-day English, there will be many who will welcome this new printing of Weymouth's version, which in late years had not been available in America in an edition without notes.

GEORGE V. SCHICK

CROWD CULTURE—AN EXAMINATION OF THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE. Bernard Iddings Bell. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1952. 155 pages, 5¼×7¾. \$2.00.

A provocative and timely little volume by the well-known author of *Crisis in Education*, who is adviser to Episcopal students at the University of Chicago and consultant on education to Bishop Wallace Conklin of the Diocese of Chicago. Dr. Bell paints a rather discouraging but factual picture of the American way of life in this little volume. He agrees with the critical minority which "knows that we must produce and educate more understanding and more spiritually adequate Americans if we are to insure even our survival as a people" (p. 16). He is not in sympathy with the unspiritual and uncultured majorities and insists that "social reformation never originates with majorities. Always there must be those who have the wit and the temerity to oppose the majorities. . . . There must be those who resist our culture, the present culture of the Common Man" (p. 19). Dr. Bell deprecates existing conditions in the educational world of America and maintains: "It soon comes to pass that able administrators, outstanding scholars, great instructors, are sure of holding their jobs only if their ideas, writings, speeches, procedures, conform to the prejudices of whatever happens to be the group that maintains in power a prevailing

political faction" (p. 57). He is equally critical of the Church because "the Church and its people too largely conform, uncritically conform, to the compulsions of our current culture" (p. 98). "If the Church," says the author, "is to help in restoring the world to moral sanity, there must be first revolt and recovery of moral sanity within the Church" (p. 99).

Dr. Bell is by no means unfriendly to the "Common Man," but he does regret that the Common Man has not learned to see life in all its possible richness and has lost contact with that which is greater than himself. Cf. p. 152. For this condition not the Common Man himself as much as the churches and schools, the clergy and the teachers, of America are in large part responsible. How true also in the case of the Lutheran Church of America, which does not know the value of its great cultural heritage and so often ignores and belittles it! — Those who have read *Crisis in Education* will hear many a familiar ring in *Crowd Culture*. That is perhaps to be expected and by no means necessarily indicates a lack of resourcefulness on the part of Canon Bell, who also enjoys fame as a university and cathedral preacher in England, America, and Canada.

WALTER E. BUSZIN

FAITH OF OUR FATHERS. A centennial volume published as a companion volume to the synod history *Grace for Grace*, in commemoration of the hundredth anniversary of the organization of the first Norwegian Synod in 1853. George O. Lillegard, editor. Mankato, Minn.: Lutheran Synod Book Co., Bethany Lutheran College, 1953. 207 pages, 5½ × 8. \$2.00.

Much is contained in this centennial volume of our sister synod which will interest those who desire to inform themselves better regarding an important phase of the history of the Lutheran Church in America. The book was published by members of "the small Norwegian Synod," which was organized by those who refused to enter the Norwegian "Merger" of 1917. Following the editor's Introductory Chapter, we find biographical sketches based on the lives of Herman Amberg Preus, Jakob Aal Otteson, Ulrik Vilhelm Koren. These were written in the given order by the Rev. J. B. Unseth, the Rev. J. A. Petersen, and the Rev. Chr. Anderson. Then follows a seven-page chapter on "Dr. U. V. Koren the Theologian," written by Dr. Sigurd C. Ylvisaker, the former president of Bethany College and Seminary. Three doctrinal articles follow which were written years ago by the sainted Dr. U. Vilhelm Koren, the former president and an outstanding theologian of the Norwegian Synod. The topics which served as the bases of these articles are : (1) What the Norwegian Synod Has Wanted and Still Wants (1890); (2) The Right Principles of Church Government (1899); (3) On the Use of the Word of God (1909). Koren was a sound theologian of keen insight, and it is not difficult to understand why our Norwegian brethren have for him the highest regard.

Next follows an article bearing the title "The Great Divide." It was written by Prof. George Lillegard, the editor and a member of the theo-

logical faculty at Bethany Seminary. The chapter is a defense of the stand taken by our Norwegian brethren and of others over and against present-day attitudes and developments along the lines of church union. The summary and gist of Professor Lillegard's remarks may be found on pages 161, 162, where he says:

There are signs that the Synodical Conference no longer stands united on such issues as those discussed above. It may be that the great majority of Lutherans in this country will join hands with those who want more liberty in matters of doctrine than the Bible allows. It may be that our "little Norwegian Synod" will become more than ever before an anomaly in the Lutheran ranks. "It has no right to exist" — this was the judgment passed upon it at the time of its birth as a re-organized Norwegian Synod in 1918. It represents only a stubborn remnant, cast in hard, unbreakable molds, of a Lutheranism which has lost touch with the main stream of Lutheran life and thought — so say "representative leaders" of the church today. It has no future. The world passes it by unnoticed. — Some may ask: Why, then, struggle against the mighty tide of unionism, indifferentism, and latitudinarianism which seems to have engulfed the Church of the Reformation to such a large extent today? . . . The Norwegian Synod has been, and is, contending for doctrines of Holy Writ, which it has no right to sacrifice on the altar of a unionistic peace. We are bound by the Word of God. That Word teaches us to look away from "majorities" and prevailing winds and currents of doctrine and to stand alone, if need be, against both emperor, Pope, and the hydra-headed mob. Scripture nowhere tells us to give up disputed points of doctrine in order to unite the Church of Christ on earth. But it does command us to "buy the truth and sell it not," Prov. 23:23; to "beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees," Matt. 16:6; to "contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints," Jude 5.

The closing section of *Faith of Our Fathers* consists of historical articles. The captions of these are: "The Last Ten Years," by the editor; "Chronological Table," by The Rev. T. N. Teigen; "Centennial Ode," by Prof. N. A. Madson, D. D.; "Essays Read at Synod Conventions"; and "The Synod's Pastors and Professors," 1918—1953.

WALTER E. BUSZIN

EVENING BELLS AT BETHANY. Volume II. By Norman A. Madson. Mankato, Minn.: Lutheran Synod Book Co., 1952. 216 pages, 5¼×8. \$2.50.

The publication of this volume is a direct result of the success of the first volume of *Evening Bells at Bethany*, whose entire edition was sold out before the year of its publication had reached its close. Like Volume One, this second volume contains chapel addresses delivered to the members of the faculty and student body of Bethany Lutheran College and Seminary at Mankato, Minn.

That the meditations of both volumes were made available in book form is due to numerous requests made to this effect by the students at Bethany and their parents. This is indeed significant and testifies to the

spiritual integrity of said student body. In view of the fact that Dean Madson's sermons are very doctrinal, direct, and frank, we marvel all the more and rejoice to realize that also among the youth attending the schools of America today there are oases in the barren wilderness of doctrinal indifference in which nutrition and refreshment may be found which are pure and unalloyed. Having enjoyed the privilege of being a member of the faculty of Bethany Lutheran College from 1929 to 1935, the present reviewer still remembers vividly the chapel exercises conducted at Bethany at that time. They were the climax of the day's activities, though conducted in the middle of the morning. Already at that time it was traditional to conduct devotional exercises in which all parts were of a high order and well prepared. This included not only the address but likewise the hymns, the organ and choral music, and the brief but impressive Order of Service. Dean Madson's meditations fit beautifully into a service of worship of this type. However, they fit into an impressive service of worship conducted anywhere, whether in a cathedral, a village church, a college chapel, or in a vacated grocery store which is used for worship purposes. As we have learned to expect from him, Professor Madson's sermons are not only to the point but also evangelical, earnest, sincere, comforting, trenchant, and interesting. The meditations of the present volume are pithy and short; in other words, they will prove useful also at the family altar in the Christian home. They cover a large variety of topics, but all have but one center: Christ Crucified and Risen again. In short, in this volume we do find good, sound preaching. WALTER E. BUSZIN

SEX IN CHILDHOOD AND YOUTH. By A. Schmieding. Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo. 158 pages, 5½ by 8. \$1.85.

Here is a helpful book for those who are or should be interested in sex education, namely, parents, teachers, counselors, and church workers. The author manifests a broad and deep understanding of, and a sane approach to, the problems in this field. What we appreciate most, of course, is his thoroughly Christian and Biblical approach to this vexing problem, which is customarily lacking in books on this subject. Parents, who have the foremost concern but feel their inadequacy in this matter, will do well to peruse the book carefully and seek to absorb its underlying principles. One could wish that at least a sample of spoon feeding, a chapter or two containing practical demonstrations of the sex education technique on the early and adolescent levels, had been added.

O. E. SOHN

BOOKS RECEIVED

From Augustana Book Concern, Rock Island, Ill.:

LIVES THAT GLORIFY GOD. Daily Biographical Meditations. By Amos Lundquist. 374 pages, 5½ x 7½. \$2.50.