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Word-Knowledge-Practice

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Word—Knowledge—Practice

Exegetical, systematic, and practical theology, all historically considered, are the disciplines in which our articles move this month.

March is the time of spring's awakening. The fresh approach in our lead article can help bring about a springtide of interest and practice in thorough and always obedient Biblical interpretation among our readers. What will more surely produce in the church that life which Christ has promised, than pastoral, professorial, and congregational reimmersion in the stream of living water flowing ever anew from the Incarnate Word in the written Word?

In the opinion of many, a thorough understanding of the nature and purpose of prolegomena as the purposeful outline and foundation of dogmatics is indispensable for the alert and serious theologian. The study offered on Prolegomena in the church dogmatics of a most influential contemporary Protestant theologian makes us more appreciative of values found in Chris-

tian groups and traditions other than our own. Such a study indicates as well that sifting and choice are required of all who read modern theological publications. We take gold wherever we find it and appreciate help in sorting out dross.

In practice there is not unknown among us today the wholesome custom of reviewing everything we do for which there may not be explicit dominical directives. Such a second look is taken in the material on confirmation, instruction, and first Communion. In the spring of the year, when catechetical classes are nearing a climax, pastoral care will be deepened by a study of the history and practice of what some consider to be almost a second Baptism and others hold to be almost without value.

In the name and service of the Lord of suffering and death and life, whose church we teach, whose people we help pasture, the editorial staff wishes all readers a blessed and hallowed remembrance of the Passion of Christ.

St. Louis, Mo. GILBERT A. THIELE

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