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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.

MARTIN BUBER: JEWISH EXISTENTIALIST. By Malcolm L. Diamond. New York: Oxford University Press, 1960. Cloth. ix + 240 pages. \$4.50.

Here we have a sympathetic and informative study of Martin Buber's life and influence. Diamond shows that Buber is not to be fitted into any category, Hasidism, orthodoxy, etc., but that he rather goes his own way on many issues.

The ground of Buber's thinking is the I-Thou relation. Diamond does a fine job of explaining and criticizing the implications of this dialogical thinking, which he claims is a middle position between absolutism and relativism. Those Protestants who would follow Buber, thinking that the I-Thou relation is an emphatic way of stressing *fides specialis*, would do well to read Diamond's discussion which shows that to Buber theology at best is a necessary evil. But Buber, too, must theologize. He seems to imply that one must know or be aware of the I-Thou relationship before he can possess it. But then I-Thou becomes an object, an It. And so it would appear that every relation must be I-It before it can become I-Thou. Buber speaks of "meaning" in concrete I-Thou encounters.

In discussing Buber's attitude toward the Bible, Diamond stresses his conservatism. Buber has indeed treated the Old Testament with a kind of reverence; but although Buber breaks with higher criticism on many counts, he holds against supernaturalism and explains it away dialogically (a tendency which Diamond finds also in Protestant neo-orthodoxy).

ROBERT D. PREUS

CALVIN'S DOCTRINE OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE. By Ronald S. Wallace. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1959. xvi + 349 pages. Cloth. \$5.00.

This is Wallace's second study in Calvin's theology. Once more he has succeeded in bringing the reader to a real understanding and appreciation of Calvin's theological depth and insight. The book tells us almost as much about Calvin's Christology and ecclesiology as about his doctrine of the Christian life, and this is as it should be, for the Christian's life is in Christ and in the fellowship of the church. The first section of the book treats the sanctification of the church in the royal priesthood of Christ. Wallace then deals with the themes of self-denial, cross bearing, dying and rising with Christ (always with Christ as Pattern), the image of God, the Christian in the present world, church discipline, the sacraments, the fruits of faith, and many more themes.

Wallace works carefully and dispassionately, and he makes no attempt at criticism. This gives the book an enduring quality but also leaves something wanting. The facts speak pretty well for themselves, however, and we see both the strength and weakness of Calvin's theology from Wallace's discussions. More attention might have been given Calvin's "Ecclesiastical Ordinances" (which reflect both his legalism and his failure to understand the distinction between Law and Gospel) because of their concrete effects on the lives of the people of Geneva. It is always important to see how one's theology works out in practice. ROBERT D. PREUS

CALVIN'S DOCTRINE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD. By T. H. L. Parker. Revised ed. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1959. viii + 129 pages. \$3.00.

Calvin regards the knowledge of the existence of God as innate; the problem of the knowledge of God, therefore, is the problem of revelation. "The idea of *Deus absconditus* is as native to Calvin's theology as to Luther's." God reveals Himself in His creative and providential activity, the *opera Dei*. However, to understand the *opera Dei* the *oracula Dei* are needed. The Scriptures are the Word of God, self-authenticated by their function as the living Word of God. God has revealed Himself in Scripture; Scripture's function is to teach us of God as Creator and Providence. In Christ alone can we know God. Christ humbled Himself and became obedient. "It is that humiliation of obedience which is the *exhibitio gratiae Dei*, the revelation of the grace of God." These are some of the thoughts detailed by Parker in his two parts: the Knowledge of the Creator; the Knowledge of the Redeemer. His work is a concise but thought-packed summary of one of Calvin's chief doctrinal emphases.

CARL S. MEYER

CRITIQUE OF RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY. By Walter Kaufmann. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1958. xvii + 325 pages. Cloth. \$5.00.

Kaufmann is a debunker. He turns his little gun in every direction and fires away. Almost every philosophical and religious position is his target, and he is bound to hit something. As a critic he is caustic and categorical, but helpful in pointing up the poverty and confusion in the views of many modern thinkers. But although the book is stimulating at first, after 300 pages of knocking and peashooting it grows a bit stale.

Kaufmann favors a Socratic type of philosopher, a poet with the imagination of an

existentialist and the intellectual conscience of a G. E. Moore and the positivists. This may be a fine combination, but when it finds its acme of expression in a Nietzsche who in the name of insight makes mere declamations, one might well prefer a Kierkegaard or a Moore or abandon philosophy altogether.

In discussing religion Kaufmann favors Judaism over Christianity or Buddhism. He dislikes Christianity because of its dogmatism and its doctrine of hell, which he attacks throughout the book as vengeful and sadistic. He is particularly insistent on the ambiguity of the idea of God and of theology in general. He asks questions (What is God? What does it mean that God exists?) and feels he has made a point when they are not answered to his satisfaction. In return one is tempted to ask Kaufmann what he means when he says that to exist is to take up space. Significantly, Kaufmann says after his attack on Christianity that his book is vulnerable to slander by critics who are structure blind or myopic. Is this poisoning the wells, or isn't it?

ROBERT D. PREUS

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE MODERN WORLD: A Survey from the French Revolution to the Present. By Edward E. Y. Hales. Garden City, N. Y.: Image Books, 1960. 314 pages. Paper. 95 cents.

The problem of church-state relations in Europe and America (chiefly North America) is a major theme which Hales develops in this story of the Roman Catholic Church from 1789 to the present. He finds the separation of church and state, religious toleration, and the support of democratic forms of government by the church highly commendable, although he says that the stand of Pope Pius IX in the Syllabus of 1864 is "logical." He endorses Dupanloup's explanation, borrowed from the Jesuits of the *Civiltà Cattolica*, of the "thesis" (the general proposition) and the "hypothesis" (a special application). Hales is not satisfied

with the settlement of 1815; to him the Napoleonic Concordat of 1801 is of greater value. Communism, the fifth great challenge to the Roman Catholic Church during its centuries-long history (the "Reformation" was the third), greatly complicates current church-state problems.

A number of points and interpretations might well be questioned. He favors, for instance, the payment of public funds to church-controlled schools. Hales' point of view throughout is that of a loyal but tolerant son of the church. Yet he is an able historian and an interesting writer. The chief stricture to be made is that he deals only incidentally, in general, with the Roman Catholic Church outside Europe and America, although the title of the book speaks of its history "in the modern world." Nevertheless, his treatment is outstanding.

CARL S. MEYER

THE ABIDING WORD. Vol. III. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1960. 561 pages. Cloth. \$4.75.

The Abiding Word was the title chosen for two volumes published in grateful remembrance of God's goodness to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod during the first century of its history. The doctrinal essays presented in these volumes are based on the writings of the fathers and founders of the Synod. The title implies that the essayists did not intend to bring any new doctrine but presented the doctrine of God's Word as it had been taught in the Synod's churches and schools during the first century—the theology of the Word. The present volume is proof that the Synod is determined to abide by the Word of God also in the second century, for the essays in this volume, like those in the two preceding it, are founded on "the Word of God, which liveth and abideth forever."

This volume contains the following essays: S. J. Roth, "The Lutheran School

in the American Educational System"; Arthur H. Gerhardt, "Youth: First-Class Communicants"; A. H. Schwermann, "The Last Things"; R. P. Sieving, "Our Divine Adoption"; Richard C. Jahn, "The Doctrine of the Angels"; W. H. Wentz, "Christ in Colossians"; Alfred von Rohr Sauer, "The Doctrine of the Church"; H. Richard Klann, "The Structure and Function of the Christian Church"; Carl A. Gaertner, "The Means of Grace in an Effective Church Program"; Ottomar O. Krueger, "The Lord's Supper"; A. E. Krause, "The Proper Use of the Sacrament of Holy Communion"; and Richard R. Caemmerer, "The Practice of Holy Communion."
L. W. SPITZ

PATROLOGY. By Berthold Altaner. Translated from the German by Hilda C. Graef. New York: Herder and Herder, 1960. Cloth. xxiv + 660 pages. \$10.00.

This invaluable book excels in many respects. It is highly readable (unlike Cayré and some of the older patrologies) and makes patrology interesting. It is packed with copious and useful bibliographical data and in this respect goes far beyond any other manual or textbook. It is concise, pertinent, and informative.

Altaner offers the basic facts on every early Christian literary work which is either wholly or partially extant, including even hymnography and epitaphs. His discussions of the more significant church fathers and their literary achievements usually include (a) an account of their background and lives, (b) a list and description of their works, and (c) a summation and analysis of their doctrinal emphases. His studies take him into the sixth and seventh centuries. The almost total lack of tendentiousness in his discussions, even in his introduction to patrology and its place in Roman theology, makes for trustworthiness.

ROBERT D. PREUS

AN APOSTLE OF FREEDOM. By Michel Alexander Vallon. New York: Philosophical Library, 1960. 370 pages. Cloth. \$6.00.

Here is another instructive, interesting, and readable biography of Berdyaev. The author traces thoroughly the background for Berdyaev's thought in the political, religious, and cultural climate of Russia, and he offers a detailed account of Berdyaev's life and spiritual development. Throughout his life we see Berdyaev's rebellious attitude toward every form of encroachment on man's liberty, whether it be the tsar or the Bolsheviks or the organized church. Although he thought himself an ardent and thoroughly Russian Christian, he was at the same time a most unorthodox one.

Vallon's discussion of Berdyaev's ideas on God, freedom, existence and being, and other motifs, illustrates Berdyaev's depth of thought but also the vastness of his heterodoxy. For instance, to Berdyaev God is love but is not omnipotent. This accounts for man's fall and for the fact that God had no control over it; it also implies a denial of original sin and of hell and an idealistic Christology. One hopes that Vallon has not made Berdyaev more unorthodox than he was. For instance, he says that Berdyaev sees no significance in the historical man Jesus. To prove this thesis he points to Berdyaev's immanentism; but this by itself is hardly conclusive.

ROBERT D. PREUS

BROTHERS OF THE FAITH. By Stephen Neill. New York: Abingdon Press, 1960. 192 pages. Cloth. \$4.00.

As an active participant in the ecumenical movement since 1939 Bishop Neill has met many of the leading men and women in that movement. In *Brothers of the Faith*, which could be regarded as a companion volume to the *History of the Ecumenical Movement* of which he is co-editor, he conducts the reader along the receiving line of the men whom he regards as worthy of special honor. Beginning with the Edinburgh Conference in 1910 and ending with a hopeful look at the ecumenical future, he introduces the reader to John R. Mott, Archbishop Söderblom, Bishop Brent, Bishop Azariah, Archbishop Germanos, Archbishop Temple, Hendrik Kraemer, William Paton, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, D. T. Niles, and John XXIII. It would be misleading to say that the line forms from left to right. Readers may disagree on the propriety of the title *Brothers of the Faith*. It is a far cry from the theology of Mott to that of men like Kraemer and Bonhoeffer, not to mention Germanos and John XXIII. Though these men share a heartfelt longing for church union, they differ widely on the basis for it. A promising sign in the ecumenical sky, however, is a new appreciation of the importance of doctrine for true church union.

Prospective readers can ill afford to ignore this lively and authoritative presentation.

L. W. SPITZ

BOOKS RECEIVED

(The mention of a book in this list acknowledges its receipt and does not preclude further discussion of its contents in the Book Review section)

Geschichte des Landes Hessen. By Karl E. Demandt. Kassel: Bärenreiter Verlag, 1959. 536 pages. Cloth. DM 21.50.

Das Evangelium nach Markus. By Walter Grundmann. Berlin: Evangelische Verlagsanstalt, 1959. xiv and 330 pages. Cloth. DM 14.80.

American Christianity: An Historical Interpretation with Representative Documents. Vol. 1: 1607—1820. By H. Shelton Smith, Robert T. Handy and Lefferts A. Loetscher. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1960. xv and 615 pages. Cloth. \$10.00.

Medieval and Renaissance Studies. By

Theodor Ernst Mommsen. Edited by Eugene F. Rice, Jr. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1959. xiii and 353 pages. Cloth. \$5.75.

The Russian Revolution and Religion: A Collection of Documents Concerning the Suppression of Religion by the Communists, 1917—25. Translated and edited by Boleslaw Szczesniak. Notre Dame: University of Norte Dame Press, 1959. 289 pages. Cloth. \$6.75.

Worker in the Canoe: A Puerto Rican Life History. By Sidney W. Mintz. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1960. ix and 288 pages. Cloth. \$4.75.

Church Dogmatics. Vol. III: *The Doctrine of Creation, Part 2 (Die kirchliche Dogmatik, III: Die Lehre von der Schöpfung, 2.)* By Karl Barth. Translated by Harold Knight, G. W. Bromiley, J. K. S. Reid, and R. H. Fuller; edited by G. W. Bromiley and T. F. Torrance. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1960. xiii and 661 pages. Cloth. 55/—.

Children in the Church. By Iris V. Cully. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1960. 204 pages. Cloth. \$3.75.

Die Mission der Weltreligionen. By Georg F. Vicedom. Munich: Chr. Kaiser Verlag, 1959. 183 pages. Paper. DM 8.00.

How to Work With Teen-Age Groups. By Dorothy M. Roberts. New York: Association Press, 1959. 62 pages. Board. \$1.00.

You Shall Be My People: The Books of Covenant and Law. By Edwin M. Good. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1959. 96 pages. Cloth. \$1.50.

Atlas of the Arab World and the Middle East. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1960. 64 pages. Cloth. \$9.00.

A Reformation Paradox: The Condemned New Testament of the Rostock Brethren of the Common Life. By Kenneth A. Strand. Ann Arbor: Ann Arbor Publishers, 1960. 101 pages. Cloth. \$2.50.

Biblia Sacra Vulgatae editionis Sixti V Pont. Max. iussu recognita et Clementis VIII auctoritate edita. Turin: Marietti, 1959. xiv and 1238 pages. Cloth. Price not given.

Index to Periodical Literature on the Apostle Paul. Compiled under the direction of

Bruce M. Metzger. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1960. xv and 183 pages. Cloth. 14 guilders.

The Mormon Conflict 1850—59. By Norman F. Furniss. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1960. 328 pages. Cloth. \$5.00.

History of Religion in the United States. By Clifton E. Olmstead. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall, 1960. xii and 628 pages. Cloth. \$10.00.

Approaches to Christian Unity: Doctrine and Prayer (Vers l'unité Chrétienne). By C.-J. Dumont. Translated by Henry St. John. London: Helicon Press, 1960. ix and 226 pages. Cloth. \$4.50.

The Meaning of Heidegger: A Critical Study of an Existentialist Phenomenology. By Thomas Langan. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1960. ix and 247 pages. Cloth. \$3.92.

Recent Developments in the South African Mission Field. By G. B. A. Gerdener. London: Marshall, Morgan & Scott, 1958. 286 pages. Cloth. 17/—.

Sources and Resources: The Literary Traditions of Christian Humanism. By Barry Ulanov. Westminster: Newman Press, 1960. xv and 286 pages. Cloth. \$4.50.

Studies in Lutheran Doctrine. By Paul F. Keller. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1960. 198 pages. Paper. \$2.50.

Readings in Church History. Vol. I: *From Pentecost to the Protestant Revolt.* Edited by Colman J. Barry. Westminster: Newman Press, 1960. xx and 633 pages. Cloth. \$7.50.

Light From Above: Christian Doctrine Explained and Applied. By Alfred W. Koehler. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1960. 165 pages. Paper. \$1.50.

A Handbook of Christian Social Ethics. Vol. I: *Man in Society (Herders Sozialkatechismus: Band I, Grundfragen und Grundkräfte des sozialen Lebens.)* By Eberhard Welty. Translated by Gregor Kirstein; revised by John Fitzsimons. New York: Herder and Herder, 1960. xvi and 395 pages. Cloth. \$6.95.

The Proverbs for Today. By Thomas Coates. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing

House, 1960. xi and 116 pages. Boards. \$2.00.

One Body and One Spirit: A Study of the Church in the New Testament. By Oscar J. F. Seitz. Greenwich: Seabury Press, 1960. 188 pages. Cloth. \$4.25.

God and History in the Old Testament. By Harvey H. Guthrie, Jr. Greenwich: Seabury Press, 1960. viii and 179 pages. Cloth. \$4.25.

An American Dialogue: A Protestant Looks at Catholicism and a Catholic Looks at Protestantism. By Robert McAfee Brown and Gustave Weigel. Garden City: Doubleday and Company, 1960. 216 pages. Cloth. \$2.95.

God Our Contemporary. By J. B. Phillips. New York: Macmillan Company, 1960. x and 137 pages. Cloth, \$2.50; paper, \$1.25.

An Outline of Old Testament History. By Charles F. Pfeiffer. Chicago: Moody Press, 1960. 160 pages. Paper. Price not given.

Meditations on the Old Testament: The Psalms (365 Méditations sur la Bible—Les Psaumes). By Gaston Brillet. Translated by Jane Wynne Saul. New York: Desclée Company, 1960. 243 pages. Cloth. \$3.50.

Why? Divine Healing in Medicine and Theology. By Graham Lesser. New York: Pageant Press, 1960. 144 pages. Cloth. \$2.75.

After the Storm, the Restoring Fire. By J. Walter Rich. Boston: Christopher Publishing House, 1960. 254 pages. Cloth. \$3.00.

Essay on the Freedom of the Will. By Arthur Schopenhauer. Translated by Konstantin Kolenda. New York: Liberal Arts Press, 1960. xx and 103 pages. Paper. \$.80.

The Pastoral Genius of Preaching. By Samuel Volbeda. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1960. 85 pages. Cloth. \$2.00.

An Introduction to a Catholic Catechism: Its Concepts, Usage, and Aims (Einführung in den neuen Katechismus). Edited by Hubert Fischer, translated by Bernard Adkins. New York: Herder and Herder, 1960. xiv and 169 pages. Paper. \$2.50.

Why Did It Happen to Me? Christian Answers to Questions About Faith and Health. By David Belgum. Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1960. 110 pages. Paper. \$1.75.

The King's Business: A Handbook for Christian Workers. By Godfrey C. Robinson and Stephen F. Winward. Chicago: Moody Press, 1957. 128 pages. Paper. Price not given.

The Protestant Faith. By George W. Forcell. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall, 1960. xi and 321 pages. Cloth, \$6.60; classroom edition, \$4.95.

Freedom and Immortality: The Forwood Lectures in the University of Liverpool 1957. By Ian T. Ramsey. London: SCM Press. Naperville, Ill.: Alec R. Allenson, 1960. 157 pages. Cloth. \$3.25.

The Encounter of Religions (La rencontre des religions). By Jacques Albert Cottat. Translated by Pierre de Fontnouvelle and Evis McGrew. New York: Desclée Company, 1960. 159 pages. Cloth. \$3.50.

Morals and Man (Morals Makyth Man). By Gerald Vann. Revised edition. New York: Sheed and Ward, 1960. 223 pages. Cloth. \$3.50.

What's Wrong with Gambling? By Richard Sommerfeld; 5 pages; tract; \$2.00 a 100. *The Christian View of Sex;* by Harry G. Coiner; 17 pages; tract; \$5.00 a 100. *6 Training Tasks of Christian Parents;* by Oscar E. Feucht; 4 pages; tract; \$2.00 a 100. *6 Teaching Tasks of Christian Parents;* by Oscar E. Feucht; 3 pages; tract; \$1.50 a 100. *Parents, Stand-ins for God;* by Oscar E. Feucht; 3 pages; tract; \$1.50 a 100. *Going Steady;* by Alfred Paul Klausler; 13 pages; tract; \$4.00 a 100. *The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod;* by Elmer A. Kettner; 11 pages; tract; \$3.00 a 100. *You're a Mother!* by Beulah Kaul; 8 pages; tract; \$3.00 a 100. *A Catholic President?: The Predicament;* by Carl S. Meyer; 10 pages; pamphlet; 5 cents each (100 or more, 4 cents each). *Our Way of Worship;* by R. Jungkuntz and R. Gehrke; 17 pages; pamphlet; 20 cents each (100 or more, 16 cents each). St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1960.