

# THEOLOGICAL MONTHLY.

VOL. V.

NOVEMBER, 1925.

No. 11.

## Masonry in the Garb of Christianity.

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Pastors will often meet with Masons who assert most emphatically that since their initiation they view the Masonic oath-bound fraternity in a different light and consider it a distinctly Christian institution, and that his opposition to their favorite lodge betrays his ignorance, excusable indeed because he has not been "entered, passed, and raised." All material at the service of the pastor proving the distinctly unchristian character of Masonry must in such cases be of special value to him. But Masonry does bedeck itself with the livery of Christianity, both before the eyes of the public and in various of its degrees of the American and Scottish Rites.

From all that has been written and printed about Blue, or Symbolic, Masonry, comprising the first three degrees, Entered Apprentice, Fellow-Craft, and Master Mason, it is evident that in not one of its many lines does it voice any distinctively Christian doctrine or make any reference to the name of our adorable Savior. In Chapter Masonry there are two Scripture-readings from which the name of Christ has been studiously expunged. Mackey admits (*Ritualist*, p. 272) that in the fourth degree of Mark Master, the first degree of the Chapter, "slight, but necessary modifications" have been applied to 1 Pet. 2, 1—5. The Masonic mutilation renders the closing words thus: "to offer up sacrifices acceptable to God," omitting the words "by Jesus Christ." Again, according to Mackey's *Ritualist*, p. 348, when 2 Thess. 3, 6—16 is read during the opening ceremonies of the Royal Arch degree, the fourth of the Chapter, the name of our Savior is omitted from verses 6 and 12. But when some of our anti-Masonic friends maintain that Masonry in no instance adopts a Christian garb or mentions the name of Christ and His suffering and death, they are quite mistaken.

## BOOK REVIEW.

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Deutsche Grammatik fuer amerikanische hoehere Schulen. Unter Mitwirkung der Professoren W. Schaller und Ed Koehler verfasst von Professor Otto F. Hattstaedt. 179 pp., 6¼×9¼. \$2.00. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

Schoolbooks are not, as a rule, discussed in a scientific religious journal. A special reason, however, prompts us to give unusual space to the new German Grammar, which recently left the presses of our Concordia Publishing House. For matriculation at our Concordia Theological Seminary a working knowledge of English, German, Latin, Greek, and Hebrew is required. These languages are, therefore, taught at our colleges, or preparatory schools. That all our students ought to have a thorough knowledge of English, the language of our country, is self-evident. Greek and Hebrew are the languages in which the Scriptures were originally written, and a theologian who is given a scientific training ought to be able to read and understand the Bible text in the original languages. Much of the literature of the Church has been written in Latin, which was the language of the learned during the Middle Ages and the medium of instruction used at the universities. Since many words used in our English language are of Latin origin, every literary worker ought to have a knowledge of Latin.

But how about German? A theologian, especially of the Lutheran Church, ought to have a knowledge of German for three reasons: 1) German is generally recognized to be one of our best, most useful, and most beautiful languages. Much of the best literature of the world has been written in the German language. A knowledge of German is a valuable asset from an educational point of view. 2) The best theological literature, barring none, has been written in the German language. For a Lutheran theologian it is a *testimonium paupertatis* if he does not at least know enough German to enable him to read and understand the German Lutheran literature; for without such knowledge he would be deprived of much valuable theological material which he ought to use in his work, and in his theological reading he would be largely restricted to the literature of the Reformed theologians. 3) The Lutheran Church is a polyglot Church. It does not, and should not, restrict its work to any particular language. The Church's business is to preach the Gospel, and the language is only a medium. That language should be used which the people speak and understand and *in which they think*. Acts 2; 1 Cor. 14. Although English is used in the pulpit and in the pastoral work of most of the congregations of our Synod, yet our pastors still need — and no doubt will in years to come — the German language both for their pulpit and their pastoral work.

The pastor, therefore, who cannot speak and understand German will be much restricted in his sphere of activity and in his influence in our Synod.

The new German Grammar by Professor Hattstaedt and his colaborers, Professors W. Schaller and Ed Koehler, supplies a real need. Formerly it was taken for granted that the boys who come to our preparatory schools could speak and understand German. To-day, however, German is to many of them a foreign language, for it is no longer taught in many of our schools and is spoken in comparatively few homes. This fact has been kept in mind by the authors of the new German Grammar. The examples given in the Grammar have been largely taken from every-day life, in order that students may readily acquire the use of spoken German. English usage is often referred to, and the difference in the use of German and English is pointed out to the student. Anglicisms and Americanisms and their correct German equivalents are given in an appendix of three pages. We are sure that the diligent use of this new German Grammar will produce good German scholars. Many young pastors who must use the German language will, no doubt, also be glad to purchase and study Professor Hattstaedt's new book.

FRITZ.

**Das Fundament des christlichen Glaubens.** By *F. Pieper, D. D.* 48 pp., 6×9. 20 cts. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

We are pleased to announce that the article on "The Foundation of the Christian Faith" by Dr. Pieper, which was originally published in Vol. 71 of *Lehre und Wehre*, has been made available to a larger circle of readers by its publication in tract form. In these days of indifferentism and Modernism this tract of forty-eight pages deserves to be prayerfully and carefully studied by every theologian who can read and understand German.

FRITZ.

**A Last Apostolic Word.** To All Faithful and Righteous Servants of the Word. 2 Tim. 4, 1—5. By *Dr. C. M. Zorn.* Done into English by *Rev. W. F. Docter.* 58 pp., 5×7½. 35 cts. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

This tract, originally written in German, is now published in an English edition with an introduction by Dr. W. H. T. Dau. In this tract Dr. Zorn explains and applies 2 Tim. 4, 1—5. A careful reading of this tract will help to strengthen pastors in their faith and give them new courage, in these times of indifferentism, to be guided in all spiritual matters solely by the sure and unerring Word of God.

FRITZ.

**Fourth Report of the Colorado District.** 64 pp. 40 cts. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

A German essay on "The Person of Jesus Christ" by the Rev. O. Luesenhop is printed at some length in this report. A very brief synopsis of the essay is given in English.

FRITZ.

**Ninth Report of the English District.** 77 pp. 50 cts. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

The Rev. E. H. Paar's English doctrinal essay on "The Relation of a Congregation to Synod" is printed in this report. The essayist treated the subject under three heads: "1. The Congregation; 2. The Synod; 3. The Relation of the Former to the Latter."

FRITZ.

**Eleventh Report of the North Dakota and Montana District, Missouri Synod.** 40 pp. 25 cts. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

This report contains a German essay by Prof. Th. Graebner on "Uniformity in Lodge Practise and Its Difficulties." Since the lodge problem is one which confronts every pastor, we take it that pastors will be glad to purchase a copy of these minutes. By the reading of Professor Graebner's paper they will be strengthened in the sound position which our Synod has always taken over against the lodges. Sixteen theses on the subject have been written and elaborated by Professor Graebner. FRITZ.

**Thirtieth Report of the South Wisconsin District.** 91 pp. 60 cts. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

Prof. P. F. Koehneke, at the sessions of the South Wisconsin District, read an essay on "The Servant of Jehovah according to Isaiah." The essay is printed in full in German and in an abridged form also in English. FRITZ.

**Bobbs-Merrill Readers. Concordia Edition.** Third Reader. 271 pp. 72 cts. Fourth Reader. 387 pp. 80 cts. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

The Bobbs-Merrill Readers are by eminent authorities considered to be the best readers on the market. We are glad to announce that these Readers have been made available for our schools by a revision made by A. C. Stellhorn, the School Superintendent of our Synod. The revised Concordia Edition contains twenty-five per cent. of positively Christian material. The type is large and the binding attractive. FRITZ.

**The Problems of Adolescence and Youth.** By Prof. Paul E. Kretzmann, Ph. D., D. D. 104 pp. 75 cts. (Lutheran Literary Board, Burlington, Iowa.) Order from Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.

The *species facti* of David's **הַפְּאוֹת נַעַר** (Ps. 25, 7) is unknown to us, but what may have been contained in the term when the prayer was offered is opened up in this frank discussion of the physical and mental phenomena which accompany the approach and development of puberty in both sexes. The treatise aims to point a way to parents, ministers, and leaders in young people's work in general how the problems created during the period of transition from childhood to full grown manhood and womanhood can be treated successfully in educational and pastoral work from the standpoint of the religious educator. After offering Preliminary Considerations in his opening chapter, the author discusses with a wealth of detail the Problems of the Relation of Youths to Authority, of Sex, of Intellectual Development, and of Religious Storm and Stress. DAU.

**The Reformation and Its Blessed Fruits.** By M. L. Gotsch. 16 pp. Single copies, 5 cts.; dozen 50 cts. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

This is a program written for the Reformation Festival. It contains a catechization for the children under the following heads: The Miner's Son, The Student, The Monk and Priest, The Professor and Preacher, The

Envoy to Rome, The Doctor of Divinity, The Reformer, The Brave Confessor, The Great Author, The Servant Faithful unto Death. The hymns and the liturgical portions must be supplied by the pastor. The catechization contains unusually much material; it is designed to make the young well acquainted with the Reformation and its blessings and to remind the older members of the church of the blessed heritage which has been handed down to them through the ages as a result of the Lord's work through His servant Martin Luther.

FRITZ.

**Amazing Assertions of Christ Concerning Himself.** By *Theodore Walz*. 69 pp. 40 cts. (Rudolf Volkening, Publisher, St. Louis.) Order from Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.

In this pretty little volume the pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church at Hannibal, Mo., presents, first, a survey of the principal doctrinal vagaries of Modernism, next, seven able discourses on the "I Am's" of Jesus.

DAU.

**Sermon Outlines on the Gospels.** Selected by *Dr. G. Thomasius*. Compiled by *Rev. George Hein*. 178 pp., 9×6. \$2.00. (Lutheran Book Concern, Columbus, O.) Order from Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.

In form and content the outlines offered in this book are similar to those in *Sermon Sketches on the Old Testament Eisenach Texts* published by the same publishing concern last year. Following the church-year, the book furnishes for each Sunday suitable Scripture-texts and clear and comprehensive outlines, contributed by various pastors of the Ohio Synod. If the main purpose of sermon outlines is inspiration, then certainly this set ought to satisfy the ever-prevailing demand for such helps. The outlines vary, of course, in suggestion and always presuppose that the pastor who uses them studies the text with zeal. Unfortunately, the doctrinal element has not been stressed as it ought to be. Unless the doctrines of the Holy Scriptures are presented continually, exhortations and devotional appeals will lack the foundation which they need to produce lasting effects. The world to-day needs doctrinal preaching, and the Lutheran Church, above all, must "declare the whole counsel of God" for the salvation of men.

MUELLER.

**The Truth about Evolution.** By *William Schoeler*. 124 pp., 7¼×5. 75 cts. (Lutheran Book Concern, Columbus, O.) Order from Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.

This is a clear-cut, lucid indictment of the theory of evolution. It shows convincingly that "the facts in favor of evolution" do not "make up such an army of evidence" as to lift the question "out of the domain of hypothesis and theory into the domain of natural law," as Professor Osborn and cobelievers claim. Evolution is not "the most firmly established truth in the natural universe" (Osborn), but "burrows in the dark; never simplifies anything and merely increases the difficulties" of the great problems of the origin of matter, motion, life, intelligence, etc. While the language is simple and popular, the argumentation is masterly and proves that the author has well studied the matter.

MUELLER.

**Missionary Stories for Juniors.** By *Edward Pfeiffer, D. D.* 160 pp., 7¼×5. 50 cts. (Lutheran Book Concern, Columbus, O.) Order from Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.

The purpose of this little book is to assist in creating a greater interest in mission-work, especially among the children of the church. It presents twenty-four short stories treating of Lutheran and other missions at home and abroad. The titles of some of the stories reflect the contents and purpose of the book: "At a Slave Market," "A Heathen Burial," "Christmas at Tirupati," etc. Most of the narratives are descriptive of scenes, incidents, and experiences in the various mission-fields and are recounted in clear and graphic language, though they greatly differ from one another in real story value. MUELLER.

**Manual for Luther Leagues.** By *Augustana Luther League Council.* Vol. I; 298 pp. (Augustana Book Concern, Rock Island, Ill.)

The contents of this book are intended for leaders in the young peoples' societies of the Swedish Lutheran Synod, showing them how to keep the members profitably employed. It is of composite authorship: Frank Nelson tells the History of Our Luther League Work; I. M. Miller offers thirteen Bible Studies in Matthew; A. T. Lundholm, thirteen Biblical Biographies. A. F. Schersten presents a Survey of American, English, and Swedish Literature, Readings, Propositions for Debate, Stories of Hymns and Famous Songs; O. N. Nelson, a Book Study on *Pilgrim's Progress*. John Aberly writes four lessons on Foreign Missions; V. E. Beck, two Programs on Home Missions, also nine Programs for Church Festivities; W. L. Wilson, eight Programs of a Patriotic and Historical Nature for Special Holidays. Special studies are presented by Ruth Bonander on Personal Work, by E. G. Chinlund on Inner Missions, by C. A. Wendell on Christian Sociology, by Carl Holm on Work with Boys, by P. O. Bersell on the Church Budget, Stewardship, and Tithing, or Proportionate Giving, and a number of other writers have contributed materials on practical issues in a young people's society, for entertaining young people, on pageants, dialogs, athletics, etc. There is hardly anything that is related to work among young people that is not touched upon in these worthy helpful contributions.

DAU.

#### Brief Mention.

Received from Verlag des Schriftenvereins, Zwickau, Saxony, **Wider Sorgen.** A hortatory tract by *Dr. C. M. Zorn.* 23 pp.; 10 cts. — **Ev.-Luth. Hausfreund-Kalender, 1926.** 20 cts. It is again filled with wholesome reading-matter. From the Rochester Theological Seminary Conrad Henry Moehlmann's paper, "Is the Study of the History of Christianity Practical?" From Friedrich Cohen in Bonn, Professor Erik Peterson's "Was ist Theologie?" — From Belvidere, Ill., the *Kishwaukee Lutheran* for July, describing the celebration of a Luther Day at the Boone County Fair Grounds on July 26.

DAU.

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**A Correction:** On page 291, line 4 from the bottom (October number), read "punctiliar" instead of "punctilious."