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The Basis of Morality.

PAUL F. BENTE, Fort Wayne, Ind.

No thoughtful reader of recent journalistic literature can have failed to notice the growing insistence on the need of religious education in the interest of sound morals. The fact that of late so many of our criminals are youths, boys (and even girls) still in their teens, is forcing home the conviction that an education without religion does not offer a sound and stable basis of morality, that ethical theory alone will not insure upright living nor offer a firm foundation for family or state. In the early days of our Republic, Benjamin Franklin cautioned Thomas Paine against publishing a book tending to disprove the existence of God, since without a belief in God morals lacked foundation. In his *Autobiography* Franklin says: "I soon became a thorough Deist. My arguments perverted some others, particularly Collins and Ralph; but each of these having wronged me greatly without the least compunction and recalling Keith's conduct towards me (who was another freethinker) and my own towards Vernon and Miss Read, which at times gave me great trouble, I began to suspect that this doctrine, though it might be true, was not useful." George Washington, in his "Farewell Address," also felt constrained to lift up his voice against the rising irreligion. He said: "And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained apart from religion."

While hushed for a number of years, these sentiments have in recent years received increasingly emphatic expression. President Coolidge has again and again stated his conviction that the hope of the country is in religion. Speaking to the International Convention of the Y. M. C. A., Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover declared the indispensable requirement of our time to be "a measure of spiritual reenforcement," which can be "supplied only from the fountainhead of character — true religion, widely embraced, with its ethical values supported." Under the caption "Robbing the Child in

BOOK REVIEW.

Lutheran Annual, 1927. Price, 15 cts.

Amerikanischer Kalender fuer deutsche Lutheraner auf das Jahr 1927. Price, 15 cts. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

They have appeared again, these old favorites. In every respect they measure up to the enviable reputation which they have established for themselves. An item worthy of special mention in the *Annual* is the list of suitable Scripture-passages to be read and pondered at home, one for each day of the year. A.

Venite Adoremus. ("Come, Let us Adore Him.") Compiled by *F. R. Webber*. Single copies, 6 cts.; dozen, 60 cts.; 100, \$4.50, plus postage. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

This service does not contain recitations or dialogs, but the liturgical part of a Christmas Eve service and the songs to be used. It appears to be a valuable piece of work. A.

Scripture Text Calendar. 1927. Thoughts for Daily Meditation.

Bibel-Text-Kalender. 1927. Gedanken zur taeglichen Betrachtung. Single copies, 30 cts.; dozen, \$2.88. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

The publishers say that the English edition of the *Concordia Scripture Text Calendar* is now their own, that the text is furnished and the edition controlled by them, and that the German edition also contains the firm's special text. These calendars are beautifully illustrated, very serviceable, and, through their Scripture-passages, a means of aiding the spiritual life. A.

Concordia Edition of the Bobbs Merrill Readers. Seventh and Eighth Readers. By *Baker and Baker*. Revised and adapted by *A. C. Stellhorn*. 96 cts. each. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

The new series of Readers, edited by Mr. A. C. Stellhorn for our Concordia Publishing House, is now complete, the Seventh and the Eighth Readers having appeared these days. The books contain very excellent

reading-matter. One finds here old and new friends. Many of the lessons consist of longer selections from great English and American classics. The offerings are so good that a person enjoys sitting down with these books of an evening and browsing in them for hours. The various lessons are supplied with study notes, the longer pieces have an introduction explaining the subject they treat of, and in the back of the books a glossary is given, where the more difficult words are explained. A.

Day by Day with Jesus. A Christian calendar for 1927. Edited by *W. H. T. Dau*. 60 cts. (Ernst Kaufmann, New York.) Order from Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.

Quite a number of Lutheran pastors cooperated with the editor, Dr. Dau, in producing this calendar for 1927. We are glad to note that the *Day by Day with Jesus* calendar, offering a Scripture-text with a meditation based thereon for every day of the year, has become quite popular in our circles. May it, true to its name, help to keep before our Christians the image and the message of Him whose name is above every name! A.

The Christian Fundamentals. By *John Theodore Mueller*. 179 pages, 4×7. \$1.00. (Ernst Kaufmann, New York.) Order from Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.

This neatly bound volume contains "twenty-five weeks of topical Bible study, in daily lessons, for all who are interested in the Christian religion." The plan of the book is somewhat unusual, as it sets forth the fundamental doctrines of Christianity in the form of daily devotional material. Each day's lesson covers a page. Each lesson begins with an apt quotation, pertinent to the topic for the day, and closes with a suitable prayer. We believe that our pastors will find this book worth recommending to their members. Its chief aim is indoctrination, and every earnest pastor will welcome material that will help him extend the spiritual knowledge of his people. The price of the book is reasonable. - W. G. P.

My Church and Others. A summary of the teachings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church as distinguished from those of other denominations. By *John Theodore Mueller*, professor of Systematic Theology at Concordia Seminary. 88 pages, 5¼×7½. 75 cts. (Rudolph Volkening, St. Louis.) Order from Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.

In the foreword to this volume the author states: "This popular guide was written at the request of some brethren in the ministry who desired, especially for the instruction of adult catechumens, a short, but, at the same time, comprehensive statement of the principal teachings of our Church together with a refutation of the erroneous doctrines taught by others. . . . The purpose of the book is, in the main, to assist our young people in appreciating the great difference between the confessional Lutheran Church and such denominations as do not teach the Word of God in its truth and purity or have rejected it altogether." Accordingly, the diligent author has divided the book into two parts, the first of which gives the difference between the teachings of our Church and those of the most prominent denominations and cults in our country; and the second presents

a brief historical sketch of these churches, with statistical data where such are available. An index is appended, which greatly enhances the value of the book. — Our pastors and teachers will find this little book a ready help for their work in general, and particularly for the teaching of adult catechumens, young people's educational meetings, Bible classes, and Sunday-school teachers' training-classes.

W. G. P.

Shall We Christians of the New Testament Keep the Old Testament Sabbath? A Discussion of the Question in the Light of God's Sacred Word. By *John Theodore Mueller*, Professor of Systematic Theology, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo. Single copies, 10 cts.; dozen, \$1.00. (The Lutheran Literary Board, Burlington, Iowa.) Order from Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.

The Seventh-day Adventists make it necessary for us again and again to go into the question treated in this tract. We have here a lucid and convincing presentation of the Scripture teachings on the Sabbath. The arguments of the Seventh-day Adventists are ably met. A.

Convention Year-Book of the Walther League. 1926. \$1.00. (Walther League Headquarters, 6438 Eggleston Ave., Chicago, Ill.)

According to the title-page, the complete proceedings, minutes, sermons, reports, addresses, and various matters of interest pertaining to the 1926 convention in the monumental city are given in this publication. What makes the book especially valuable are the addresses contained in it. It is profusely illustrated and altogether very attractive in make-up. It can be ordered from the Walther League Headquarters, 6438 Eggleston Ave., Chicago, Ill. A.

Beretning om det niende aarlige aarsmoede af den norske Synode af den Amerikanske Evangelisk Lutherske Kirke. 50 cts. (Lutheran Synod Book Co., 1101 14th Ave., S. E., Minneapolis, Minn.)

The synodical report of this year's convention of our Norwegian brethren deserves wide circulation. Part of it is in the Norwegian language. In this section we find a paper on "The Call into the Office of the Ministry." The greater part of the doctrinal discussions, however, is given in English. The subject of unionism was gone into quite thoroughly by the convention. Three papers were submitted and are printed on this subject. The first one is an introductory paper, the subject being "Unionism." The second treats the theme: "The Curse of Unionism in the Early History of the Lutheran Church in America"; the third: "The Curse of Unionism in the American Lutheran Church of To-day." Our brethren certainly chose a timely subject when they decided to discuss the peril of unionism. I would suggest that the papers mentioned be made the basis of discussions at our pastoral conferences. In addition, the convention heard three brief papers on the Christian day-school, which are printed. They betoken a great zeal for this important institution of our Church. Considering the wealth of reading-matter found in this report, one must say that the price is low. A.

The Lutheran Publishing Co., Ltd., 238 Rundle St., Adelaide, South Australia, has sent us the following:—

1. **Koonibba.** Twenty-five Years of Mission-work among Australian Ab-origines. 2 shillings.

Our brethren in Australia were able to observe the twenty-fifth anniversary of their mission endeavor among the natives of Australia. In honor of the occasion this brochure of 89 pages was published. It is richly illustrated, and in an interesting manner it tells the story of the development of the mission and describes its present status. One cannot deny that this mission has been abundantly blessed. The photographs showing the difference in the appearance of the natives before and after their conversion bring home to the reader to how great an extent the Gospel is a civilizing agency. May the divine blessings continue to rest on this mission of the Australian Lutheran Church! A.

2. **The Lutheran Church.** What It Is and What It Stands For. 4 d. per dozen.

This little tract of 12 pages (6×4) is intended especially for Australian people who are not acquainted with the Lutheran Church. It is admirably adapted for this purpose. Here in America, too, it can well be used where outsiders have to be informed of the history and the great doctrines of our Church. A.

Christmas: Hail to the New-Born King! A Christmas service of Scripture-reading, recitation, and song for Sunday-schools. Single copies, 6 cts.; 100, \$4.50. (Lutheran Book Concern, Columbus, O.)

Verkuendige seinen Ruhm! Weihnachtsliturgie fuer Sonntagsschulen. Same price and same publishing concern.

Two serviceable Christmas programs, which contain proper Scripture-readings and hymns for the children's Christmas service. MUELLER.

Christmas: Hail to the New-Born King! A Scripture service of Scripture reading, recitation, and song for Sunday-schools. Single copies, 6 cts.; dozen, 60 cts.; 100, \$4.50. (Lutheran Book Concern, Columbus, O.)

We wish to draw the attention of pastors, teachers, and Sunday-school superintendents to this new helpful service for Christmas Eve. A.

The Augustana Book Concern, Rock Island, Ill., has issued the following story-books:—

1. **Three Christmas Eves.** A story for children. 30 cts.—
2. **The Pearl and Other Stories.** By *A. L. O. E.* 30 cts.—
3. **Boys and Girls of Ridgeway.** By *Lloyd Logan (Virginia Hill Smith).* 40 cts.—
4. **Twilight and Dawn.** A story for children. By *N. Fries.* 30 cts.—
5. **The Haunted Smithy,** and three other stories. By *Betty.* 30 cts.—
6. **Defeat and Victory.** A story for young people. By *C. A. Barth.* 30 cts.

These books suggest themselves as Christmas-gifts for children and young people. They all have illustrations from original drawings or original photographs. The cover design in colors is very attractive. A.

Eclogae Graeco-Latinae Fasc. 17. Altchristliche Literatur des Abendlandes. Ausgewählt und herausgegeben von A. Kurfess. 80 Pf. (Verlag und Druck B. G. Teubners, Leipzig, Germany.)

While this little brochure of 32 pages is a collection of Latin texts intended for school use, no minister or anybody else need be ashamed of being caught reading and studying it. Here we have selections from Tacitus and Pliny and such early Christian apologists as used the Latin, namely, Tertullian, Minucius Felix, Firmianus Lactantius, and Ambrosius, to represent the prose writers, and a number of Latin hymns to give us an idea of the nature of early Christian poetry. A.

Hymn Stories. By Elizabeth Colson. 88 pages, 9¼×6. \$1.25. (Pilgrim Press, Chicago.)

The hymns of the Church are receiving more attention of late, also in our circles. Many pastors have devoted some of their Sunday evening sermons to the discussion of the great hymns of the Church, and many teachers are helping their pupils in the study of hymns by giving the stories of authors or interesting items connected with their origin and use. At one of our normal schools, we are told, special efforts will be made to prepare the teachers also along these lines. Now this book comes to our hands from Reformed circles. Its aim is to include a course of hymn study in the Sunday-school curriculum. It gives the study of a hymn for each month of the year, except the twelfth, for which a review program is offered. While the book can probably not be used in our schools and Sunday-schools in its entirety, we would nevertheless recommend it to our pastors and teachers. There is much in it that is worth while, and a wide-awake instructor can readily use the method here outlined to arrange a course of hymn study for his school. W. G. P.

Pastoralblaetter fuer Predigt, Seelsorge und kirchliche Unterweisung. Herausgegeben von Lic. Erich Stange. Semiannually, M. 4.25. (Verlag von C. Ludwig Ungelenk, Dresden-Leipzig.)

This monthly, intended for pastors, contains, in the number which lies before us (September, 1926), articles on the following subjects: "Suggestion und Autosuggestion." "Die christliche Wissenschaft im Lichte der Medizin." "Zur inneren Anlage eines Perikopenbuches." Besides, there are given sermons, outlines, and other matters of interest to ministers. A.

The First Page of the Bible. By F. R. Bettex. Fifth English edition. 45 cts. (Lutheran Literary Board, Burlington, Iowa.)

Those of our readers who are acquainted with the works of the late Dr. F. Bettex in the German language will recall with a thrill his brilliant monograph, *Das erste Blatt der Bibel*. We are glad to see that the English translation of this admirable treatise is enjoying much popularity. While we cannot in every case agree with Dr. Bettex in his exegetical conclusions, we nevertheless are profoundly thankful for this bright, sparkling defense of the glory of God as it has revealed itself in the creation of the world. A.

One Hundred and One Famous Poems. With a Prose Supplement. By *R. J. Cook*, 301 S. Wabash Ave., Chicago. 25 cts.

This interesting collection of famous poems contains some of the choicest pieces of English and American literature and may be of service to our teachers either in teaching literature in general or in selecting suitable recitations for their classes. Some of the poems are rather long for recitation purposes. The best poets of England and America are represented in this collection.

MUELLER.

Putting on Immortality. Reflections on the Life Beyond. By *Clarence Edward Macartney*, Minister of Arch St. Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia. 189 pages, 5½×7½. \$1.50. (Fleming H. Revell Company, New York.)

Dr. Macartney has given to his large circle of readers a number of good books, fascinatingly written and fearlessly defending the old faith. His *Parables of the Old Testament* and *Twelve Great Questions about Christ* champion the cause of orthodoxy against modern liberalism and plainly and without reservation acknowledge the truths concerning Christ's deity and the inspiration of the Bible. In the present volume he treats, in his usual gripping way, the Christian eschatological hope and the doctrines which it involves—the resurrection of the body, including the resurrection of the unjust and the state between death and the resurrection, the last Judgment, with the doctrine of future retribution, and then—"At Last!" Not every view expressed will be accepted by the Lutheran reader; nor has the subject been treated better here than we find it discussed in our Lutheran theological literature; but this book is one of the few of modern works which, in outlining the great doctrines of the last things, still follow the Bible and present its doctrines. For this reason we recommend it to our readers.

MUELLER.

The Truth about Mormonism. By *James H. Snowden, D. D., LL. D.* 369 pages. \$2.50. (George H. Doran Co., New York.)

The Menace of Mormonism. By *A. F. Gray.* 128 pages. 75 cts. (Gospel Trumpet Co., Anderson, Ind.)

Mormonism is still an agency for evil in our country, and constant study of its vicious doctrines and practises, with a view to warn guileless souls against their allurements, is necessary. As Joseph Smith, its founder, claimed to have obtained the "gold plates" of his Bible in September, 1827, a hundred years will have elapsed next year since this pestilential error was given to the world. Both books will give the information which is necessary to understand what Mormonism is. The one by Dr. Snowden is the more scholarly one, while Gray's book points out with greater clarity the menace which Mormonism constitutes to this day. As far as we could verify the historical statements, we found them reliable. In addition, it may be said that both books are written in the spirit of fairness, *sine ira et odio*. Pictures and illustrations are to be found in both books.

MUELLER.