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Some Notes on Ephesus.

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Perfecit opus suum Phidias, etiamsi non vendidit.
(Seneca, *De Beneficiis*, II, 33.)

I do not, here and now, propose to repeat what may be found in the great standard series of Pauly-Wissowa *sub verbo* "Ephesus." Only the other day there appeared a new book, *Paul of Tarsus*, by Dr. T. R. Glover, of Cambridge, England, which I have not yet had time to examine. After the Light of the World His greatest apostle seems to be the greatest figure, still, among all the children of men, a figure steadily growing with time, and growing, too, with the undeniable decadence in the world's estimate of secular "greatness." Well, I have not yet had the leisure to examine this work and compare it with Conybeare and Howson or Lewin. At this moment, too, I have turned over some pages in Neander's *Pflanzung und Leitung*, fourth edition (Hamburg, Perthes, 1847). Much of it is reply or critique of Baur and his Tuebingen School. How much of that "critical" school was wild conjecture, foisting subjective conceptions into historical construction or reconstruction, interpreting speculative conjecture into the broken data of actually available tradition!

Sir William Ramsay (whom I have the honor to know by correspondence and scholar's exchange of work) in 1911 published a little book, *The First Christian Century*, notes on Dr. Moffatt's *Introduction to the Literature of the New Testament* (Hodder and Stoughton, 1911), which I here desire heartily to commend to the readers of the THEOLOGICAL MONTHLY; but I must limit myself to a single *passus* (p. 13): "But Manen, or even Baur, sitting in judgment on Paul, is a mole attempting to estimate the size of a colossus, or the strength of a lion, or the swiftness of an eagle in the air." No more of this.

One thing I have noticed in the efforts of the higher critics

BOOK REVIEW.

Minutes of the Twenty-Ninth Convention of the Ev. Luth. Synodical Conference of North America. 75 pages. 50 cts. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

These printed minutes contain a German essay by Prof. M. S. Sommer on "The Unity of the Christian Church" and an extensive report on the work of the Synodical Conference among the colored people of our country. The officers of the Synodical Conference are: The Rev. C. Gausewitz, president; Prof. L. Fuerbringer, D. D., vice-president; the Rev. H. M. Zorn, secretary; the Rev. E. Eckhardt, statistician; Mr. Albert Gruett, treasurer.

F.RITZ.

Five Minutes Daily with Luther. By *John T. Mueller*. 375 pages, $4\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$. \$2.50. (The Macmillan Co., New York.) Order from Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.

This new book of devotion by our colleague Prof. J. T. Mueller deserves to be used in the homes of our Christian people. The compiler has done our lay people a valuable service in making accessible to them in a small volume a few of the gems from Luther's voluminous writings. One page is devoted to each daily lesson. A short Scripture-passage is placed at the head, which is followed by an exposition taken from Luther and by a verse from Christian hymnology. In his preface, Professor Mueller calls attention to an additional purpose which the book may serve. He says: "While the book has been designed primarily for devotional reading and has therefore been arranged in daily lessons, it may be used also as a reference work on Luther's principal teachings. Such a reference work may be desirable. For this reason two indexes were added, a subject index and an index for the passages treated." FRITZ.

Refuge and Strength. Seven-minute Talks Delivered at Daily Convocation. Compiled and edited by *Otto Mees, D. D.* 206 pages, $5\frac{1}{4} \times 7\frac{3}{4}$. \$1.00. (Lutheran Book Concern, Columbus, O.) Order from Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.

In the foreword to this book the compiler and editor, Prof. Otto Mees, president of Capital University of the Ohio Synod, says: "On each school-day, between the hours of ten thirty and ten forty-five, the students of Capital University assemble in the college chapel for a brief devotion. The president, faculty members, and neighboring pastors, in turn, address the assembly. For fifteen minutes the students are led to abandon their academic pursuits in order to worship God with song and prayer. This is as it should be in a Christian college. The purpose of the addresses is twofold. It is to awaken or to keep alive in the minds of our students the consciousness that, while intellectual growth is fostered, spiritual development must not be neglected. It is also to direct and assist the young people to translate their faith into life." The forty short addresses treat the following general subjects: Life, Habits, Character Building, Service, God's Gifts, Prayer, Church, Christian Characteristics. The addresses which we have read are excellent, both as to contents and presentation. We do not understand why the following paragraph in an address on "Are You Ashamed of Your Church?" was permitted to be printed: "We need not be ashamed of her divisions, lamentable and deplorable as this feature of our Church is, since her divisions are an evidence that Lutherans love nothing of this world so much as the truth and are ever ready to contend earnestly for the faith." The addresses given in this book will make profitable reading also for our young people. FRITZ.

An Introduction to the Principles of Religious Education. By *Earle Edward Emme* and *Paul Raymond Stevick*. 286 pages. (The Macmillan Co., New York.)

The value of this publication lies in the opportunity which it affords for studying the effect of applying modern scientific methods to religious education. The concept of human nature in an age when everything is

rated from His work. The author is weakest in depicting the *magna passio* of the Lord, and in his resurrection account the sublime truths underlying that miraculous event are lost in a maze of what often seems to the reviewer irrelevant explanation. There is but one true and adequate account of Christ's life and death, namely, that of the inspired gospels, which holy men of God wrote as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. No Life of Christ has ever reached the sublimity of the holy gospels.

MUELLER.

Do Fundamentalists Play Fair? By *W. M. Forrest*. 125 pages. (The Macmillan Co., New York.)

The Professor of Biblical History and Literature in the University of Virginia has observed the tactics pursued by Fundamentalists in their polemics against Modernists and is convinced that they lack candor. A book like this was to be expected, and I expect more of this kind to follow. For it is a fact that Fundamentalists are not, each of them, one hundred per cent. genuine and sincere defenders of the inerrant Scriptures. But the author is mistaken, I think, when he believes that he has no quarrel with Fundamentalism itself, but only with the methods of some Fundamentalists.

DAU.

The Religious Education of the Child. By *Samuel A. Stein, M. A., D. D.* 39 pages, 9×6. 25 cts.

Lakeside Lectures on the Gospel Ministry. By *H. J. Schuh, D. D.* Reprinted from *Teologisk Tidsskrift*. 24 pages, 9×6. 20 cts. (Both: Lutheran Book Concern, Columbus, O.)

The Lutheran Book Concern offers to the reading public two more tracts of vital interest, both timely and worthy of careful reading. In *The Religious Education of the Child* Dr. S. A. Stein (Ohio Synod), favorably known as author of *A Guide in Church Finance*, presents with remarkable preciseness and vigor the need, province, and method of the Christian training of the young. The need of Christian training is apparent, but the state cannot provide for it; hence Christian parents and the Christian churches must shoulder the responsibility and utilize every available avenue by which the child may be reached. The ways in which this can be done are specified in the last chapter. The tract is an ardent plea for more and better Christian education. — The *Lakeside Lectures on the Gospel Ministry* picture the Christian minister as preacher, teacher, pastor, business manager, and as a pattern to all men in the exercise of Christian virtues. In simple, direct language Dr. Schuh presents the lofty ideal of a true pastor after the heart of God. We are sure that no pastor will regret the study of this tract.

MUELLER.

The First Age of Christianity. By *Ernest F. Scott*. 242 pages, 7½×5. \$1.50. (Macmillan Co., New York.)

This book is designed to furnish to the student of the New Testament a background by means of which he may view Christianity in its real essence, both as doctrine and as a dynamic. Christianity, according to the author, is a blending of Judaistic thought with Hellenistic, Alexandrian, and mystical speculation. It was Paul especially who forged these heterogeneous elements into a unified system of faith, with the message of the

Cross the pivotal point. But Paul, John, and their coworkers were but "seekers after truth," and they "would have been the first to acknowledge that they had 'not yet apprehended'" (p. 238). They wished to "bequeath to us, not a finished scheme of doctrine, but their own spirit of tireless seeking." A book written from a viewpoint so utterly in opposition to the real facts in the case will be of little service in helping the student of the Bible to understand what Christianity is. It obscures rather than clarifies; historically as well as doctrinally it is a perversion which it features.

MUELLER.

The Purpose of God. By *C. C. Taylor, A. M., B. D.* 294 pages, 7½×5. \$1.75. (Standard Publishing Co., Cincinnati, O.) Order from Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.

"The purpose of God," which the author has rightly traced in the Old Testament, is the sending of the divine Savior. This purpose the writer summarizes as follows: "Toward this end, that of bringing His Son into the world as Redeemer, God chose Abraham to head a people, or nation, who shall furnish the necessary religious setting or background for such an important event. Then we see that the immediate purpose of God as made known in the Old Testament is to arrange for the coming of Christ into the world. He was to be the center of all history. Everything, therefore, before Him was but pointing the way to Him, as that which has followed points back to Him as the great mountain peak of all history." (p. 293.) The book is a helpful apologetic against evolution and higher criticism. The chapter on "Criticism" is an unanswerable indictment of the folly of higher criticism.

MUELLER.

The International Critical Commentary. *The Pastoral Epistles*, by the *Rev. Walter Lock, D. D.* *The Epistle to the Hebrews*, by *James Moffat, D. D.* XLIV and 163 pages; LXXXVI and 264 pages, 8×5. \$3.00 and \$3.50. (Scribner's, New York.)

To all who know and use the *International Critical Commentary* these two volumes, commentaries on some of the most important epistles in the New Testament, will certainly be welcome. The general character of the *International Critical Commentary* is well known. The work is of interest mainly to the specialist in Biblical science, to whom it offers scholarly criticism of the text, abundant quotations of parallel passages from profane literature, a wealth of archeological and historical lore, and a grammatical and linguistic apparatus, which the student will hardly find in any other commentary in a form so clear and attractive. Yet the *International Critical Commentary* has many faults, and also in these two volumes the conservative Bible student will find much to condemn. The commentators are men of liberal religious views, who recognize neither the verbal inspiration of the Bible nor the deity of Him of whom all Scriptures testify. The consequences of this liberal and often strikingly unfair treatment of the sacred text are noticeable on every page. Thus Dr. Moffatt regards the Epistle to the Hebrews as a Christian homily steeped in the speculations of allegorizing Alexandrian philosophy, in which Christ's sacrifice is nothing more than a symbolic vehicle of religious truth. Dr. Lock presents the arguments for and against the Pauline authorship of the Pastoral Epistles very temperately, but leaves the conclusion to the

judgment of the reader. It is regrettable that in both volumes the real exegetic material, which, after all, is the first thing that the student of exegesis seeks in a commentary, is not sufficiently exhaustive. The important exegetic details are not treated with satisfactory fulness.

MUELLER.

Peloubet's Bible Dictionary. Based upon the foundation laid by *William Smith*; edited and brought up to date by *F. N. Peloubet, D. D.*; assisted by *Alice D. Adams, M. A.* 799 pages and maps. $9 \times 5\frac{1}{2}$. \$2.50. (John C. Winston Co., Philadelphia.)

The purpose of this new *Bible Dictionary* is "to bring to the great body of our Sunday-school teachers and intelligent Christian households a Bible dictionary fully abreast of the latest modern scholarship, giving them the things which will most aid them in their work, but omitting long discussions and theories." In the simplest language it gives a full exposition of all topics mentioned in the Bible — every place, nation, tribe, person, and historical event; every custom and rite; every instrument and implement; every animal, plant, flower, mineral, metal, etc. It contains tables of money, weights, and measures, chronological tables (Ussher's, those of the Assyrian Eponym Canon, Beecher's); many new and helpful maps; also new pictures and several plans, which make the description more attractive and vivid. On the whole, the religious views set forth are conservative, although quite often the author departs from traditional orthodox views. In the treatment of the doctrinal questions the Reformed opinions are adhered to. Thus Baptism is described as "the public profession of faith and discipleship" (p. 73). The Lord's Supper is "a reminder of the leading truths of the Gospel" (p. 369). In spite of these and other faults this *Bible Dictionary* may be used with profit by those who are able to discriminate.

MUELLER.

Facts of Our Faith. Teachings and Practises of the Church. By *William Lee Hunton*. 143 pages, $5 \times 7\frac{1}{2}$. \$1.00. (The United Lutheran Publication House, Philadelphia, Pa.)

This book contains fifty-eight brief essays, giving simple statements of Christian faith and practise. Brevity is a good qualification of any writer or speaker. We are not sure, however, that the author has said just what he meant in the following sentence: "The Lutheran recognizes the right of private judgment and accords the right to make a personal interpretation and application of truth." We must distinguish between the right of private judgment and the assumed right of private interpretation.

FRITZ.

Foundations of Faith. A Manual of Christian Evidences. By *George Albert Getty, D. D.* 91 pages, $5 \times 7\frac{1}{2}$. 60 cts. (The United Lutheran Publication House, Philadelphia, Pa.) Order from Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.

This is a primer of Christian apologetics for the common man. The ontological, cosmological, teleological, and moral arguments for the existence of God are presented; external and internal evidences are given to show that the Bible is the Word of God; and the teachings, the miracles, the resurrection, and the influence of Christ are cited as reasons for the belief that Jesus is true God. The book closes with a chapter showing

that the crowning evidence for the truth of the Christian religion is the personal experience of a Christian. — Under evidences in favor of the Bible we failed to find the fact mentioned that the Bible is the only religious book which teaches salvation by grace, while all the religious books of man teach salvation by works. There is only one reasonable explanation for this, namely, that the Bible doctrine of grace is a divinely revealed doctrine, while the religion of works is the religion of natural man.

FRTZ.

Science and Religion. By *J. A. Thompson, M. A., LL. D.* 280 pages.

Religious Experience and Scientific Method. By *H. N. Wiemann, Ph. D.* 387 pages.

Now I Know. By *J. A. MacCallum.* 164 pages.

The first of these publications comes from the press of Scribner's Sons and represents the Morse Lectures for 1924. The author's aim is "to show with concreteness and circumstantiality that modern scientific formulation in terms of the Lowest Common Denominators cannot be regarded as antithetic to religious interpretation in terms of the Greatest Common Measure." I believe that the chief help which this book can furnish is by curbing the arrogant claims of modern science. As regards the synthesis which it seeks between revealed religion and modern science, that is a futile effort. — The last two publications come from the prolific Macmillan press. Dr. Wiemann seeks to preserve for religion "intellectual standing" in our questioning age. Unless religion, he holds, plants itself firmly on the data of sense, it will turn into sentimentalism. This is an unhappy wording for an otherwise respectable fact. Religion cannot deal merely with mystic and enthusiastic notions, the creatures of men's minds, but must rest on external facts. But these facts, now, must be the facts which God by His revelation purveys to the mind of man. — Rev. MacCallum has given up all hope that men will ever again be found believing Genesis. He therefore undertakes to present Christianity "as a vitalizing experience rather than a series of propositions which must be accepted without question." The trouble will only be how to authenticate the experiences, otherwise they will not be vitalizing. Somewhere man is always confronted with an authority to which he simply must bow — or turn devil. DAU.

Soul-Winning Sermons. By *R. A. Torrey, D. D.* 485 pages, 8½×6.

\$4.00. (Fleming H. Revell Co., New York.) Order from Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.

This is a most interesting collection of striking sermons, which, as the author states, "God has used in saving myriads of sinners all around the globe." There are two features which make these sermons different from the many thousands of sermons that are published annually outside of our Church; namely, 1. Dr. Torrey, the well-known evangelist, in the main, still preaches the basic facts of sin and grace; 2. he preaches them in a language which is simple and clear, but at the same time powerful and convincing in its direct appeal. Some of the topics are: "Three Reasons Why I Believe the Bible to Be the Word of God"; "Hell: Its Certainty and What Sort of a Place It Is"; "Every Man's Need of a Refuge"; "The Way of Salvation Made as Plain as Day," etc. The Sermons do not follow conventional forms; sometimes they might be classed as lectures rather than sermons; nor are they always sound in doctrine. Dr. Torrey is a Cal-

vinist, and in spite of many fine statements to the contrary he does not hold the Scriptural doctrine concerning the efficacy of the means of grace, the person of Christ, etc. Nevertheless, after careful perusal we recommend this collection of striking sermons to our pastors, not for imitation, but for analysis and private study, as samples of the better preaching outside of our circles.

MUELLER.

False Prophets. By *James M. Gillis, C. S. P.* 201 pages. (The Macmillan Co., New York.)

One must overlook that the writer is one of the Paulist Fathers, that he believes in the seven sacraments of his Church, the worship of Mary, the sovereign authority of the Pope, etc., and simply follow his keen and witty dissection of such cheats as George Bernard Shaw, H. G. Wells, Sigmund Freud, Conan Doyle, Friedrich Nietzsche, Ernst Haeckel, Anatole France,—and one will be delighted and heartened by this book. (One regrets to find Mark Twain among the “false prophets.”) The last two chapters, “The Revival of Paganism” and “Back to Christ—or Chaos,” are a truthful horoscope of our times. It is a pity that a Romanist must tell these things to Protestants about men who have mostly come out of their own Church. In the background of all looms the thought: To avoid chaos, the world must come back under the sheltering wings of the Pope.

DAU.

The Life of William Jennings Bryan. By *Genevieve Forbes Herrick* and *John Origen Herrick.* 424 pages, 8½×6. (Buxton.) Order from Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.

“I have been a child of fortune from my birth. God gave me into the keeping of a Christian father and a Christian mother. They implanted in my heart the ideals that guided my life.” So Wm. Bryan said at the end of his third presidential campaign, on the eve of election day, in a speech to his neighbors. Also in this election he lost out, but as a good loser he declared, “I shall find private life so full of joy that I shall not miss the Presidency.” The principal joy, as appears from the biography before us, of Bryan’s life was his religion, and especially his testimony on behalf of Christ, the divine Savior of the world, his last great effort being the defense of religion against Evolution. Shortly before his end he wrote in his “Last Will and Testament”: “Trusting for my salvation to the blood of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Redeemer, and relying on His promise for my hope of resurrection, I consign my body to the dust and commend my spirit to the God who gave it.” A Lutheran Christian can certainly not commend every act in the religious life, or every teaching in the faith, of Bryan. He was a member of several secret societies, though from the biography it would appear that he never took active interest in lodgery. In the cruel examination to which blasphemous Darrow put him at the Dayton Trial he denied certain facts concerning the creation report which a true Lutheran Christian is convinced must be maintained. Nevertheless, in spite of all these failings, Bryan at all times believed and confessed the central truth of salvation by grace through faith. He died as a believing Christian. The Herricks’ biography will greatly aid the reader in understanding the ideals of this singular, yet great man. It is interestingly written and offers copious quotations from Bryan’s speeches and writings.

MUELLER.