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Foreword.

As the new year is approaching, it is proper that the THEOLOGICAL MONTHLY should for a moment halt in its regular work and consider the whence and whither of its course. In speaking of its past, it will be remembered that the THEOLOGICAL MONTHLY is a continuation of the *Theological Quarterly*, which was founded in 1897 and changed into a monthly in 1920. We may justly say, then, that our journal now is thirty years old and that this is certainly a fitting occasion for a glimpse backward and forward. No one will take it amiss when we say that our periodical has had an illustrious past. While from the very start the whole faculty of Concordia Seminary has been responsible for its contents, its first editor-in-chief was that eminently gifted and learned scholar Dr. A. L. Graebner, who, almost single-handed, wrote the first volumes, the first four embracing 512 pages each, and whose articles embodied many of the results of his exhaustive researches. When toward the end of 1903 illness took the editorial pen out of his hands, Dr. F. Bente, for over a year, in addition to his other duties, attended to the management of the *Quarterly*, whose volumes at that time were 256 pages strong. In 1905 Dr. W. H. T. Dau became a member of the faculty of Concordia Seminary, and having been called as English professor of dogmatics, he, as a matter of course, was entrusted with the editorship of the *Quarterly*. These paragraphs are intended, in a way, as a tribute to the splendid services which Dr. Dau rendered the Lutheran Church as editor of this journal. Immediately when his articles began to appear, it was seen that in him the Church possessed a writer of rare fascination and skill, and throughout Synod commendation of the excellent workmanship exhibited in his literary productions could be heard. His style was not only correct, it was usually highly beautiful and ornate. What was most praiseworthy was, of course, that, as had been the case with his predecessors, the *norma normans* of all Dr. Dau's writing was the Bible and the *norma normata* the Confessions of the Lutheran

BOOK REVIEW.

Daily Bread, or *Home Devotions.* By *F. E. Pasche.* \$3.00. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

This is a beautiful, stately book, both with regard to outward make-up and contents. In a pleasing and clear manner the author discusses the great doctrines and facts of Scripture. The book contains 318 chapters, each one having a specific subject. In the arrangement of the material the Small Catechism of Dr. Luther has been followed. The author very wisely has inserted chapters on subjects which are of special importance in our day, for instance, Materialism, Evolution, etc. It was a happy thought to issue a book of this nature, and we have no doubt that all who buy it will find it profitable and edifying. The chapters are of convenient length for family devotion, and to each one has been added a short prayer and a stanza from a Christian hymn. May this work soon have many readers and help to keep our people in touch with the soul-saving Gospel!

Outlines for Catecheses and The Technique of Questioning. By *H. B. Fehner, M. A.* \$1.25. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

Every one who has been privileged to instruct children in the Catechism knows that this is not an easy task. Professor Fehner comes to the aid of pastors and teachers, and we venture to say that the assistance he

offers will be found exceedingly valuable in the blessed, but arduous work of indoctrinating our youth. The book consists of two parts. The first contains brief outlines, according to which one can easily work out a so-called catechesis, adapting the material to the ages and intelligence and previous training of the children. The second is an informing dissertation on the difficult art of questioning, drawing attention both to what is proper and improper, serviceable and baneful, in this field. I am sure that many pastors and teachers, after they have examined the book, will say, "This is exactly the kind of work we have been looking for." It proceeds on its way with our hearty benedictions.

Sounding Joy. A Collection of Christmas Carols and Chorals for Mixed Voices. Collected, revised, and adapted by *Walter Wismar*, organist and choirmaster of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, St. Louis, Mo. Single copies, 35 cts.; dozen, \$3.36; 100, \$23.00. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

In contents and external make-up this little collection of Christmas anthems is extremely pleasing and satisfying. Here we find many of our old favorites and aside of them songs with which we are less familiar. What is especially interesting is that in a number of instances the tunes are given in the harmonization elaborated by J. S. Bach.

A System of Christian Evidences. By *Leander S. Keyser, A. M., D. D.* Fourth edition. Revised. \$1.75. (The Lutheran Literary Board, Burlington, Iowa.) Order from Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.

Dr. L. Keyser, professor of the Lutheran Seminary at Springfield, O., is known as a staunch and bold defender of the Bible against its outspoken enemies and disloyal or lukewarm friends. The present volume gives a comprehensive view of Christian apologetics, which treats of the arguments with which the onslaughts of the foes of the Scriptures or the questions of doubters may be successfully met. The author does not surrender one jot or tittle of the Scriptures in his battle with unbelief—an attitude for which all lovers of the divine Word should be grateful. The book is divided into five parts, the respective headings being: "General Notes and Principles"; "The Bible a Special Divine Revelation"; "Christian Theism and Opposing Theories"; "The Doubter and His Difficulties"; "The Failure of Infidelity." The author is justly famous for his lucid and forceful manner of presentation, and in this volume he fully measures up to the high standards of his former literary work. Let us hope that this book will continue to receive a warm welcome and that soon further editions of it can be issued.

The Problem of Origins. By *Leander S. Keyser, A. M., D. D.*, 265 pages, $5\frac{1}{2} \times 7\frac{3}{4}$. \$2.00, net. (Lutheran Literary Board, Burlington, Iowa.) Order from Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.

Dr. Keyser, of Hamma Divinity School, U. L. C., Springfield, O., discusses the evolutionary theory under the general heads: Whence came the Universe? Whence Came Life and Species? Whence Came Man? Dr. Key-

ser has done considerable work in the field of biology, being one of the American authorities on bird-lore; and this latest work from his pen upholds, with many cogent arguments, the Biblical account of the Creation, interpreted according to its honest, literal sense, and correlates it with real science. He holds that there has been no scientific proof for the evolutionary hypothesis. The essays contained in this volume display Dr. Keyser's lucid style at its best.

GRAEBNER.

Hymnological Studies. By *Matthew N. Lundquist*. 85 pages, 5×7½. 90 cents. (Wartburg Publishing House.)

A brief summary of hymnology, especially of the Lutheran hymn, with reference also to Scandinavian and American Lutheran hymnody. A list of hymn-writers is added. The book makes pleasant reading and should be welcomed by every lover of sacred song, particularly by organists. Professor Lundquist holds a chair in Wartburg College, of the Iowa Synod.

GRAEBNER.

History of the Gettysburg Theological Seminary, 1826—1926. *Abdel Ross Wentz, Ph. D., D. D.* Published by the authority of the Directors. 624 pages, 6×9. (Printed for the seminary by the United Lutheran Publication House, 1228—34 Spruce St., Philadelphia.)

The author is Professor of Church History in Gettysburg Theological Seminary and is known outside of the United Lutheran Church through various historical studies in the general field of American Lutheranism. In this large volume he tells in six chapters the history of early Lutheranism in America, with special reference to the training of its ministers, and then recounts the varying fortunes of the seminary. The life of Gettysburg Seminary's founder and leading spirit, Samuel S. Schmucker, is told with considerable detail, and biographies of men who taught in the seminary since his day are sketched with a trained hand. There is a complete roster of alumni, pages 363—594, a complete biographical index, and a very good general index. The book is well illustrated. A stately volume and a well-told story, such as we have longed to see of our own Concordia Seminary.

GRAEBNER.

Can We Then Believe? By *Charles Gore, D. D.* 231 pages, 4½×7½. \$2.00. (Charles Scribner's Sons.)

Dr. Gore was formerly bishop of Oxford and is now a Fellow of Oxford University and of King's College. He stands out prominently among conservative or evangelical Anglican scholars. We have not experienced unmixed delight in reading his latest book. He upholds the veracity of the Gospel account of Jesus as distinguished from the "historical Jesus" presented by the various critics (p. 89 ff.); he holds that "science cannot deal with the problem of Theism at all" (p. 167); he believes that Jesus even in His State of Humiliation "was throughout the very Son of God, personally God" (p. 176). Gore's polemic against Dean Inge on this same point is good (pp. 191—196). On the other hand, only by the experience of Israel did the Old Testament "become" the Word of God (p. 25); the New Testament writers "interpret particular sayings of the prophets uncritically" (p. 29); Mohammed presents "some evidence of genuine in-

spiration," as did "poets and artists all the world over" (p. 38); evolution gives "a far more adequate and satisfactory conception of divine method than the old scientific dogma of special creations" (p. 56); that the early chapters of Genesis record literal history "is a position which is now quite untenable" (p. 65); mankind "emerged out of an animal ancestry" (p. 66). In view of this self-contradictory position of the writer we can hardly agree with the publisher's note on the jacket of the book, to the effect that "Dr. Gore here clears for the mind confused by recent controversies a fresh path toward a religion founded on self-evident probabilities."

GRAEBNER.

The Way to the Best, and other sermons. By *M. H. Krumbine*. 174 pages, 5×7½. \$1.50. (Doran & Co.)

The publisher calls this "a collection of sermons by one of America's most characteristic present-day preachers." God forbid that such preaching should become characteristic of the Lutheran pulpit! Rev. Krumbine, a year ago, permitted Dr. Fosdick to occupy his pulpit at Dayton. His own preaching is thoroughly saturated with the Fosdick type of Modernism. "Samuel heard a voice in the night. The voice of God, he thought, it was" (p. 111). "For the warfare of the present we must go, not to the theological museum, but the moral arsenal" (p. 122). "The new statement of belief may be more faulty, less confident than the old. So long as it is timely, it will serve our purpose" (p. 123). "Exactly such a voice" — as Emerson's! — "we are eager to hear to-day" (p. 171). The changes are rung on the "social gospel," "social salvation." "The sign of the prophet Jonah" is interpreted thus: "The sign, namely, that a frivolous and decaying civilization will respond if there be found one man who will be steadfast with his message" (p. 48). Jesus is termed an idealist like Ramsay McDonald, the Laborite Premier of Great Britain. Throughout the collection of sermons there is little Christian doctrine, and what there is of it is cast into the mold of the New Theology. On the homiletical side we note that lack of exposition based on exegetical study which is the bane of modern preaching. There is a superabundance of illustration to dress up the thought, illustration and quotation. Especially quotation. The *Lutheran Quarterly* of 1925 highly recommends the volume, the reviewer noting with admiration the fact there are "as many as twenty to thirty quotations in a single sermon." Here are the twenty-one in the first sermon: Benjamin Franklin (Deist), R. W. Gilder, Lord Haldane, Hazlitt, John Dewey (naturalistic psychologist), Burne Jones, W. S. Stoner (radical), Tennyson (evolutionist), "a distinguished Scotch preacher," Luther, Shakespeare, Augustine, Nehemiah, Rashdall, Barrie, Reynolds, Goethe, Rashdall again, E. A. Robinson, Browning, and Pollock (the dramatist). Elsewhere we find Kipling, Emerson, H. G. Wells (high priest of infidelity), Bernard Shaw, Huxley, Bertrand Russell (three notable prophets of modern unbelief), Samuel Johnson, Papini, Schiller, and "our own Emerson." In language the sermons are rich and full, yet hardly addressed to the masses. What will the average parishioner make of such a sentence as this: "Too much ethical idealism is wasted in these clever diatribes on the debacle of civilization" — ?

GRAEBNER.

Pen Portraits of the Prophets. By *Bernard C. Clausen, D. D.* 175 pages. \$1.50. (Fleming H. Revell Co., New York.)

Dr. Clausen is pastor of the First Baptist Church of Syracuse and is the author of another similar volume of biographical sketches delineating the disciples. We do not recommend the present volume to our pastors because it contains little which a careful Bible student does not know and because it is touched by the frost of modern Liberalism. For instance, it is based on the critical theory that the prophets did not prophesy, but that they simply preached to their contemporaries, occasionally anticipating (or, to use the plain and unvarnished word, guessing) what might happen,—even as you and I. Again, the concessions to that something which people like to call science are evidenced in his acceptance of the old onion-coat theory of geology. This is also accompanied by a corresponding concession to the modern doctrine of religious evolution. Zechariah becomes the prophet “who discovered the devil”! In addition to all this there is a disappointing incompleteness about the whole volume. The foreword begins dramatically: “Here are the prophets,” and yet they aren’t here. Jonah and Daniel are distinctly embarrassing to any one inclined to straddle, and so their absence is both conspicuous and significant. Similarly, we miss Obadiah and Joel. But there is an even more glaring incompleteness. The author calls his little essays “pen portraits”; but they must belong to the futurist school and should be classified with the efforts of a budding artist who starts with a canvas labeled “the sky-line of St. Louis,” draws two breweries, and delineates the rest with an innocuous straight line. Dr. Clausen repeatedly takes one minor characteristic and dwells on it so persistently that all perspective and proportion are sacrificed. Imagine Isaiah without the slightest reference to his Gospel! — Yet, withal, the style is so vivid, crisp, and full-blooded that it is worthy of a treatment far superior than that to which it has been subjected here.

MAIER.

Famous Men of the Old Testament. By *Morton Bryan Wharton, D. D.* 333 pages, 5½×7¾. \$1.00. (W. P. Blessing, Chicago.)

This is a popular collection of short biographies on seventeen outstanding men of the Old Testament. While the entire book is pervaded by a sincere devotion to the Word of God, which admits of no concession to higher criticism, the results of recent archeological research have not been embodied. The book has a Reformed background and is sometimes guilty of unjustifiable exaggerations (as when Sarah is called Abraham’s “incomparably beautiful wife”). The sketches are often incomplete. The Melchizedek incident, for example, is missing in the chapter on Abraham. But otherwise it contains a number of stimulating thoughts.

MAIER.

Concordia Calendar. A Christian Annual for the Year of Our Lord 1927. Edited and compiled by *G. A. and E. A. Fleischer.* 50 cts. (Concordia Mutual Benefit League, Lutheran Building, 105—109 N. Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill.) Order from Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.

This annual, which has become a permanent fixture in the almanac world, offers a wealth of wholesome and interesting reading-matter in its 1927 issue. Prof. J. T. Mueller contributes a translation of Luther’s inter-

pretation of the Beatitudes, E. A. Fleischer has furnished a revision of a very informing article entitled: "Unsere geistlichen Lieder," in which there are included biographies of the famous Lutheran hymn-writers; G. L. Wind is represented by a story, *The Maid of Mayence*, etc., etc.

George H. Doran and Co., New York, has issued the following works:—

1. **Highways of the Heart.** A series of addresses by *Rev. George H. Morrison, D. D.* Glasgow. \$1.50.

These sermons are so short that one is inclined to call them meditations rather than sermons. The author seems to believe in the great fundamental truths of the Scriptures. The style is simple, natural, and yet beautiful. Now and then there are fine flashes of deep insight into the meaning of texts. The theology of the author is that of the Reformed churches.

2. **Studies in the Text of the New Testament.** By *Rev. Prof. A. T. Robertson, D. D., LL. D., Litt. D.* \$2.50. Order from Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.

Here we have a new book by Professor Robertson, the great New Testament grammarian, who usually has something interesting to say when he writes. The present volume is no exception. It consists of essays, a number of which appeared before in various journals; and it cannot be denied that they make profitable reading. To furnish proof for this statement, let me mention some of the chapter-headings: "The Autographs of the New Testament"; "Why Textual Criticism for the Preacher?" "Paul and His Books"; "Early English Bibles." Textual criticism, that little cultivated part of New Testament study, is in the foreground. Altogether, this is a book which it will pay a minister to purchase and to study.

3. **From Feet to Fathoms.** By *Rev. Robert G. Lee*, Pastor of Citadel Square Baptist Church, Charleston, S. C. \$2.00.

The author of these ten sermons is a believer in the inerrancy of the Scriptures, if we mistake not, and the atoning sacrifice of Christ. The sermons are perhaps somewhat more doctrinal than the greater part of present-day sermoniac output can be said to be, although here, too, we note something of the tendency to dwell rather on secondary facts and truths than on fundamentals. The style is one of fervor and eloquence, but now and then too rhetorical. The picturesque title owes its origin to the text of the first sermon, Acts 27, 27. 28.

4. **The English of the Pulpit.** By *Louis H. Chrisman, A. M., Litt. D.* Professor of English Literature, West Virginia Wesleyan College. \$1.50.

While most of the material offered in this book is not new to the graduate of a theological seminary, there are a number of paragraphs contained in it which any minister can peruse and ponder with profit. The author does not confine himself strictly to a discussion of the English to be used in the pulpit, but has included chapters on other matters, for instance, on the introduction, the organization, and the conclusion of sermons. The book contains several useful appendices dealing with English idiom.