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The Spiritual Care of the Young People.

A Chapter in Pastoral Theology.*

During the adolescent age young people need the special care and attention of their Christian parents, their Christian congregation, and their Christian pastor. In childhood their Christian character has been *formed*; during the adolescent period (ages fourteen to twenty) this Christian character needs to be *developed*.

* The writer of this article has been requested to write an *English Pastoral Theology*. The manuscript is now being prepared. The most excellent *Pastoraltheologie* by Dr. C. F. W. Walther, which has been used for many years in our circles, will form the basis for the new book. The material found in Walther's book will, however, not only have to be presented in good idiomatic English, but, as has been suggested, some passages, referring to conditions other than those under which we are working, must be eliminated, and certain matters, *e. g.*, mission-work, church finances, etc., not found in Walther's book at all or only briefly touched upon therein, will have to be added. The writer has decided upon the following tentative table of contents: Introductory Remarks; The Christian Congregation; The Call to the Ministry; The Personal Character of the Minister of the Gospel; The Work of Preaching; Baptism; The Christian Training of Children; Confirmation; The Spiritual Care of the Young People; Marriage; The Christian Home; The Christian Burial; The Cure of Souls (visiting, sick-visits, etc.); Psychological Conditions in Their Relation to the Spiritual Life (influence of heredity, of early training, of education, of environment, of one's reading, of poverty or wealth, of mind over body, and *vice versa*, of conditions of health, of false religious convictions); The Treatment of Certain Sins (idolatrous worship, *e. g.*, lodge-membership; unionism; sinful occupations; drunkenness; sinful amusements; covetousness [love of money]; cursing; neglect of public worship; gossiping; worldliness; birth control; inertia); The Pastoral Treatment of People under Certain Abnormal Conditions (melancholy; hysteria; worry, nervousness; insanity); Church Discipline; Mission-work; Stewardship (including church finances); Church Societies; The Synod; Resigning from the Ministry; The Minister's Library. A sample of a chapter from the new book is herewith submitted to our readers. Suggestions from our readers in reference to contents and make-up of the book are requested.

BOOK REVIEW.

The Secret Empire. A Handbook of Lodges. By *Theo. Graebner*. 243 pages, $5\frac{1}{4} \times 7\frac{5}{8}$. \$1.25. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

In this book, Professor Graebner gives information on forty lodges for men and on ten lodges for women; also on college fraternities and junior orders. "In addition," says the compiler in his preface, "to the analysis of some seventy secret societies the book contains a discussion of such societies [American Legion, Boy Scouts, Y. M. C. A., Y. W. C. A., and others] as cannot be termed lodges, yet make their appeal to the membership of the Church. The opinion here submitted regarding all these organizations, secret or otherwise, is unbiased and objective, the writer's main purpose being to disseminate among our people authentic, up-to-date, and pertinent information regarding these various orders and associations." This book ought to be in the library of every pastor for quick reference. Pastors will also do well to recommend its purchase and study to the people of their churches. Also in this case to be forewarned is to be forearmed!

Fritz.

Half a Century of Lutheranism Among Our Colored People. A Jubilee Book by *Christopher F. Drewes*, Director of Missions, 1877—1927. 111 pages, 6×9. 75 cts. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

This brochure presents, in word and picture, the wonderful story of mission-work carried on among the colored people of our country by the Synodical Conference. It makes good reading for old and young and will help to interest our people in the blessed work which they are doing.

FRITZ.

The Good Shepherd. A church cantata for soprano and tenor solos, chorus, and organ. Words selected by *Paul E. Kretzmann*. Music composed by *J. F. Ohl*. 63 pages, 6¾×10¾. \$1.00. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

The music of this cantata is not too difficult for the average choir. The singing of such cantatas will be appreciated by choirs and congregations.

FRITZ.

Knowledge unto Salvation. By *Paul E. Kretzmann*. 70 pages, 4½×6¼. 40 cts. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

This booklet offers a course of instruction for adult classes, preparing men and women for membership in the Lutheran Church. The arrangement of the material follows that of doctrinal theology. The Bible and the Small Catechism (Enchiridion) are to be used in connection with the booklet. Dr. Kretzmann believes that not the lecture method, but the discussion method, will be productive of the best results. "The Bible," he says, "ought to be open in the hands of all attending the class." Thirty-two lessons are given. The chief proof-texts are printed out. Reference is made also to the Small and the Large Catechism and to the Augsburg Confession. — Dr. Kretzmann's book can be made to serve also another purpose than that for which it has been specifically written. It can be put into the hands of non-Lutherans who have not decided to take the course offered to an adult class, but who would like to know what our Lutheran Church teaches. We suggest that every pastor keep a few copies on hand for this purpose.

FRITZ.

Verhandlungen der dreissigsten Versammlung der Ev.-Luth. Synodalkonferenz. 51 pages. 35 cts. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

These printed minutes contain only the business transactions of the last session of the Synodical Conference, held at Lockport, N. Y., a year ago, August, 1926. A detailed report of the work done by the Synodical Conference among the colored is given, including, of course, a report on the two colleges supported by this larger organization: Immanuel Lutheran College at Greensboro, N. C., and Alabama Luther College at Selma, Ala. A resolution in reference to a new hymnal will interest our readers: "Resolved, That we ask the church-bodies comprising the Synodical Conference to take the matter under advisement as soon as possible, with a view to determining the feasibility of preparing a new hymnal for the use of the Synodical Conference and to take the necessary preliminary steps

having this end in view." The advisability of a new English translation of the Lutheran Catechism (Enchiridion), for use in the Synodical Conference, was also mentioned.

FRTZ.

A Liturgical Service for Rally Day. Published by Authority of the General Sunday-school Board by *P. E. Kretzmann*. 16 pages, $5 \times 7\frac{1}{2}$. 5 cts.; dozen, 48 cts.; 100, \$3.35. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

Prayers for Lutheran Sunday-Schools. Compiled by *P. E. Kretzmann*. 20 pages, $5 \times 7\frac{3}{8}$. 15 cts. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

Both of these printed folders recommend themselves by their titles.

FRTZ.

Shadows. By *H. A. Schroeder*. 346 pages, $5 \times 7\frac{3}{8}$. \$1.50. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

In their search for unobjectionable story-books, which can be given to young people, pastors, teachers, and parents will do well to keep in mind this new story-book, which has been printed on our own presses. FRTZ.

Luther's Small Catechism in the English Translation of Thomas Cranmer. MDXLVIII. Excerpted from Cranmer's Catechism, together with an historical introduction, by *John C. Mattes*. 32 pages, $5\frac{1}{4} \times 7\frac{3}{4}$. 20 cts. (The United Lutheran Publication House, Philadelphia.)

In the historical introduction to this unique edition of Luther's Small Catechism we read: "It seems strange that one of the latest conquests of the Catechism should be a language into which it was translated at a very early date. In 1548 its words were familiar to a large number of English readers, though Luther's name was buried under Cranmer's and the actual text lost its identity, as it was absorbed into the far larger catechism that passed as the work of the Archbishop of Canterbury. . . . As the revision of the English translation of the Catechism is of considerable interest at the present time, the writer has ventured to reproduce, as far as possible, Luther's Catechism as it is included in the text of Cranmer's translation of the *Kinderpredigten*. The reader may then peruse with ease a translation of the Small Catechism in the classic English of the sixteenth century. It should be noted that this is not always a literal translation. Because of the several hands through which the original text passed, and particularly because of Cranmer's fondness for making additions and subtractions when he was so minded, there are a few places in which it becomes a rather free paraphrase. We would particularly call the reader's attention to the quaint rendering of the explanation of the Eighth Commandment. On the whole, however, it quite faithfully reproduces the thought of the original. . . . The text, which strives to reproduce the original form, even to its utter inconsistencies of spelling, has been taken from Edward Burton's reprint, an exact reproduction that was made by collating four different copies of the original edition." The *Kinderpredigten*, to which reference is made, were written by Andreas Osiander and Dominicus Slepner and appeared at Nuernberg in 1533. "They were

a series of sermons for the instruction of the young, based on the Small Catechism, and each sermon, with one exception, concluded with the actual words of Luther's explanation. Only the part on Confession and the introduction and conclusion of the Lord's Prayer were lacking. In place of the former a sermon on the Power of the Keys was inserted." As a sample we reprint the explanation of the Second Article: "And when you be asked, howe vnderstande you the second parte of the Crede, you shall answer. I beleue that Jesus Christ, veray God, begotten of God the Father, and veye manne, borne of the Virgin Marie, is my Lorde, whiche by hys precyouse bloode and holy passyon, hath redemed me, a myserable and damned wretch from all my synnes, frome death eternall, and from the tyrannie of the Deuell, that I should be his owne true subject, and lyue within his kyngdome, and serue hym, in a newe and cuerlastyng lyfe and iustice, euen as oure Lorde Christe, after he rose from death to lyfe, Iyueth and raygneth euerlastyngly."

Das Alte Testament mit in den Text eingeschalteter Auslegung, ausfuehrlichen Inhaltsangaben und erlaeuternden Bemerkungen. Herausgegeben von *August Daehsel*. 2. Band: Die Buecher Josua bis Esther. \$4.25. (A. Deichert'sche Verlagsbuchhandlung, Leipzig.) Order from Concordia Publishing House.

In this second volume of Daehsel's exposition of the Holy Scriptures the historical books of the Bible from Joshua to Esther are explained. An appendix contains First Maccabees, incorporating in notes the contents of Second Maccabees, and offers, besides, an admirable sketch of the history of the Jews from the Maccabean revolt to the birth of Christ. Another noteworthy feature is that in explaining the captivity of the ten tribes a summary of the apocryphal Book of Tobit is added in a long *excursus*, while in connection with the story of the devout King Josiah the apocryphal Book of Judith is given in outline. In general, we must say that the wealth of historical references and notes, some very extended, is simply astounding. The history of both Israel and the nations with which it came in contact is traced with marvelous fulness and care. From the point of view of one seeking archeological information it is hard to see how the work could be improved on. Concerning the doctrinal character of the work, compare the remarks with which the first volume was introduced (September, 1927). To mention a few details, the actual occurrence of the miracle in nature related Josh. 10 is ably maintained. Jephthah's daughter (cp. Judg. 11) is held not to have been immolated in the literal sense, but assigned to an unmarried life in the service of the Tabernacle. The apparent discrepancy between 2 Sam. 24, 13 (seven years' famine) and 1 Chron. 21, 12 (three years) is satisfactorily solved by a reference to 2 Sam. 21, 1, where a famine of three years' duration is spoken of as occurring in David's reign, leading one to assume quite naturally that at the time when David numbered the people the fourth year after the beginning of the famine had come, so that with three years additional famine, the total of years of visitation would have been seven. In 2 Chron. 22, 2 a copyist's error is assumed (42 instead of 22). King Ahasuerus, Esther 1, 1, is identified with Xerxes I, so well known through his ill-fated expedition against Greece. Paging through the volume, one finds frequent

comments credited to Luther, Osiander, Keil, Hengstenberg, and other renowned Lutheran exegetes. We hope that this conservative work will help to keep away from Lutheran tables commentaries of a destructive nature.

Know Your Bible! 1,500 Questions with Answers. Biblical Quizzes on All Parts of the Bible. By *Amos R. Wells*. \$1.00. (W. A. Wilde Co., Boston, Mass.)

This book is arranged like other books that have been published under the general title "Ask Me Another." There are thirty series of fifty questions each on the Bible, making in all 1,500 queries. Such questions, arranged by one who is thoroughly acquainted with the Scriptures and who passes from what is well known to the less important, would certainly be of value. But the questions which are contained in this book are not of this character. Some of the answers are positively erroneous; for instance, the question, "What is the Eighth Commandment?" is grammatically defective because it ought to read, "Which is the Eighth Commandment?" And it is answered in accordance with the enumeration of the commandments by the Reformed churches and not in accordance with that of the ancient Church. When speaking of the life of Christ for the first thirty years, Nazareth alone is mentioned, and nothing is said of Bethlehem. It is stated that the two books of Chronicles parallel the two books of Kings, whereas the two books of Chronicles include more than the two books of Kings. The author claims that Jeremiah compared the Israelites to broken cisterns that can hold no water, whereas Jeremiah condemned the Israelites for "hewing them out broken cisterns that can hold no water." He explains "synoptic gospels" by saying that they are called synoptic because they give a synopsis of Christ's life. There are many other inaccuracies. Then there are many questions concerning minutiae which are of little importance. For instance, we are asked: "What New Testament book was written first? For what is Anathoth most noted? Where did Kipling get the title of his book, *Many Inventions*? What is the oft-quoted sentence in Ecclesiastes about 'the former days'? On what occasion did Nathan the prophet make a mistake? Who was Adoram?"—and innumerable more like these. On the other hand, important matters are passed over. Altogether, it is just such a book as will appeal to some inexperienced young person to whom it offers little help, but much that is misleading. A far more helpful book for the study of the Bible is *Outlines of Sacred History on the Old and New Testament* by the late Prof. M. Luecke, President of Concordia College, Fort Wayne, Ind., which is sold by Concordia Publishing House. Then there are the two valuable volumes by Rev. Rupprecht, *Bible History References*, and Prof. Th. Graebner's *Bible Student*.

The author, moreover, suggests a wrong use of the book by saying that as soon as you have mastered it, you are to tackle Sunday-school teachers, expose their shallow pretensions without pity, and "do not leave them till they cry for mercy and ask where they can get a copy of this book." Such advice alone shows the spirit which prompted many of the questions.