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The Lutherans at Lausanne.

The movement to bring about closer relations among the churches along the lines of unionism, and eventually a union, which was inaugurated at the World Conference on Missions in Edinburgh in 1910 and at the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the same year and was supported by other American denominations, notably the Disciples and Congregationalists, gathered its forces this year in the World Conference on Faith and Order, which assembled August 3 at Lausanne, Switzerland, and sat for three weeks. Four hundred and thirty-five delegates attended, representing eighty-one communions, or groups. The only bodies not represented were the Roman Catholics and a branch of the Baptists (called in America the Southern Baptists). "Representatives from all the continents and many islands of the sea were there — patriarchs, archbishops, bishops, deans, canons, professors, executives, editors, ministers, priests, missionaries, and seven women." Bishop Charles H. Brent of Western New York, who has been a prime mover in this affair since the Edinburgh conference, presided, Professor Garvie (Congregationalist) being deputy chairman. The vice-presidents were Archbishop Soederblom, Archbishop Germanos, Dr. Merle d'Aubigné, and Professor Deissmann (of the University of Berlin). The object of the conference, says the preamble by Bishop Brent in the official report of the meetings, "is to register the apparent fundamental agreements within the conference and the grave points of disagreements remaining; also to suggest certain lines of thought which may in the future tend to a fuller measure of agreement." Seven subjects occupied the minds of the conference, all of which, except the first, were thoroughly discussed. "Each subject (of the six) on the agenda was first discussed in plenary session. It was then committed to one of the sections, of more than one hundred members each, into which the whole conference was divided. The report, after full discussion in subsections, was

BOOK REVIEW.

The Proof Texts of the Catechism with a Practical Commentary.

By *Louis Wessel, D. D.* 155 pages, 6¼ × 9¼. \$3.50. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

The readers of the *Theological Quarterly* and, later, of the THEOLOGICAL MONTHLY will remember that in 1898 the sainted Dr. A. L. Graebner began to print explanations of the proof-texts of the Catechism. This series was subsequently continued by Dr. W. H. T. Dau and later by Dr. Louis Wessel. The publication in the MONTHLY, however, was discontinued before the work was completed. Dr. Wessel then completed it, and the Concordia Supply Company of our Springfield Seminary published the complete edition in two volumes. Since this edition has been exhausted, our Publishing House has made a zincphotographic reproduction in one volume.

The truths of the Catechism ought to be taught on the basis of Scripture; hence, proof-texts. The Catechism should not be taught by demanding that the questions and answers given in the exposition be learned by heart and then the Bible-texts *added*, but the Bible-texts should first be studied and the truths derived from them. Sound, thorough exegesis, therefore, is needed for instruction in the catechismal truths as well as for the pastor's sermon work. This is reason sufficient why theological students and young pastors ought to welcome the reproduction of *Proof Texts of the Catechism*.

FRITZ.

The Wide-Open Island City. Home Mission Work in a Big City. By *Carl A. Gieseler*. Vol. V of *Men and Missions*, edited by *L. Fuerbringer*. 59 pages. 25 cts. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

This fifth booklet in the *Men and Missions* series, by Carl A. Gieseler, is filled with human-interest stories gleaned from a pastor's experience in doing mission-work in a large city. It has the following chapter heads: Geographical, Beginnings, The Missionary, Getting to Work, Progress, The Helpmate, Enlarging the Tabernacle, Real Progress, The Language Question, "Missionieren," Canvassing, Difficulties, Various Experiences, Farewell. It is dedicated to our Lutheran youth.

FRITZ.

Synodical Proceedings: *South Wisconsin District*. 88 pages. 55 cts. *English District*. 108 pages. 70 cts. *Eastern District*. 96 pages. 60 cts. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

The minutes of the South Wisconsin District contain a doctrinal paper on "The Fundamentals of the Christian Religion," by Pastor W. Lochner, and the outline of a historical paper, by Prof. O. F. Hattstaedt, on "The Work of Our Church in Southern Wisconsin." A doctrinal paper on "Authority in the Church," by Pastor Harry E. Olsen, is printed in the minutes of the English District, and in those of the Eastern District there is a continuation of a German essay on "The Deity of Christ," by Pastor Christian Kuehn, and an English essay on "The Proper Use of the Doctrine of the Church," by Pastor Geo. Luecke.

FRITZ.

Das christliche Gemeindeleben. 36 pages. 25 cts. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

This is an essay which was read at the recent convention of the Oklahoma District of our Synod by Pastor W. Mahler. It speaks of the Christian life, or the true spirituality, of a Christian congregation: how it is brought about; how it manifests itself; who its enemies are; what its goal should be.

FRTZ.

Die Bibel oder die ganze Heilige Schrift Alten und Neuen Testaments nach der deutschen Uebersetzung Dr. Martin Luthers mit in den Text eingeschalteter Auslegung, etc. Herausgegeben von *August Daechsel*. 4. Band: Die prophetischen Buecher. \$4.00. (A. Deichert'sche Verlagsbuchhandlung, Leipzig, Germany.) Order from Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.

This fourth volume of Daechsel's famous work, treating the major and minor prophets, Isaiah to Malachi, exhibits the same characteristics as the first and third volumes, which have been reviewed in these columns. The comments are clear, full, pertinent. That they are copious is apparent from the size of the volume, which is 954 pages. Details which deserve favorable mention are, for instance, the acceptance of the view taught by the Scriptures themselves that the whole Book of Isaiah comes from the hands of the prophet bearing that name and that hence chapters 40—66 are authentic; the position which is the only one consonant with the words of the Scriptures, that the prophecies in the Book of Daniel were written by that great man of God in the sixth century B. C. and are not to be regarded as a fabrication *ex eventu* in the second century B. C.; and again, the defense of the historical character of the Book of Jonah. The quotations from various writers, for example, from Matthias Claudius in the comments on the miracle by which Jonah's life was preserved, are often strikingly apt. The point of view throughout is that of the believing Bible Christian, who looks for safety in the work of the Redeemer. It is to be regretted that the author was an advocate of Chiliasm and that on this account there are sections where his interpretation cannot be adopted.

Christliche Wissenschaft (Christian Science) in Widerspruch mit Gottes Wort. Von A. Burgdorf. 30 Pf. (Verlag des Schriftenvereins [E. Klaerner], Zwickau.)

This is a good pamphlet, presenting a discussion and refutation of the dangerous errors taught by the propagandists of the sect falsely called Christian Science.

Manual for Concordia Edition Bobbs-Merrill Readers. Primer, 142 pages. 25 cts., net. First Reader, 84 pages. 25 cts., net. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

These *Manuals* will well serve those pastors and teachers who are using the Bobbs-Merrill series of readers, as these have been printed in a revised edition for our own Publishing House. We omit a detailed review; that belongs in a professional journal.

FRTZ.

Spiritismus im Lichte der Schrift. Von *Johannes Karstin*. 20 Pf.
(Verlag des Schriftenvereins [E. Klaerner], Zwickau.)

A brief, but virile tract, throwing the light of Holy Scripture on that growth of darkness, Spiritism.

Lutheran Annual. 1928. Price, 15 cts. Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.

Amerikanischer Kalender fuer deutsche Lutheraner auf das Jahr 1928. Price, 15 cts. Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.

These two well-known publications of our Synod give the calendar for the new year, with the usual data, such as the Sundays of the church-year, the time when the sun rises and sets, and the moon phases. They also give Scripture readings for every day of the year. In addition, they contain some reading-matter and the very valuable list of pastors and teachers of the Synodical Conference. It goes without saying that one of these publications ought to be in the home of every one of our Lutheran people.

FRTZ.

Ev.-Luth. Hausfreund-Kalender fuer 1928. Herausgegeben von *Martin Willkomm*. 18 cts. (Verlag und Druck von Johannes Herrmann, Zwickau.) Order from Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.

If you wish to provide yourself and your family with wholesome reading-matter in the German language, buy this almanac. Here you find bits of choice poetry and a good deal of interesting prose, wise sayings, and useful instruction, hints for the soul and for the mind, things entertaining and uplifting, a beautiful variety of edifying reading-matter. My congratulations to the editor and to those who choose to become his readers.

Glad Hosannas! By *Walter Wismar*. 72 pages, 6×9. 35 cts.; in dozen lots, 25 cts.; in hundred lots, 20 cts. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

Mr. Walter Wismar, the organist and choirmaster at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, St. Louis, and an instructor in the school of that church, has in this booklet given us a collection of sixty-three Christmas chorals and carols; five of the musical compositions in the collection are his own. In the preface Mr. Wismar says: "We sing in school and in church, but do we sing at home? Or if we do, are the songs worth while, or are they only songs of the hour? Do we sing and play sacred hymns? . . . Wherever there is a piano in a Christian home, there ought also to be found a hymnal or a choral book." As the pictures on the walls, so also the songs which are sung in a home are characteristic of that home.

FRTZ.

Of Judah's Tribe and David's House. — A Liturgical Service for Children and the Entire Congregation. **Aus Judas Stamm und Davids Haus.** Ein liturgischer Gottesdienst fuer Kinder und Gemeinde. — By *Prof. P. E. Kretzmann, D. D.*, and *Walter Wismar*. — Price, 5 cts.; per dozen, 50 cts.; per hundred, \$3.50. Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.

This is a good Christmas Eve service, offering both German and English text.

Glory to the New-Born King! A Children's Christmas Service. By *Walter O. Kraeft*. 8 pages, 6×9. 6 cts.; dozen, 60 cts.; hundred, \$4.00. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

A good, brief Christmas program of catechization, hymns, and, if desired, recitations. Its simplicity recommends it. FRITZ.

Exclusive Christmas Greeting Cards. No. 1927. Religious Texts — Christian Sentiments — Original Designs. Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.

We are pleased to announce the publication of these Christmas cards, the intention of which is "to help put Christ back into Christmas greetings." They are well gotten up in seven colors of ten different designs, each carrying a rhymed greeting and Scripture-text. They are sold only according to the following plan: Our Publishing House sells them to parochial and Sunday-schools put up in boxes containing twenty-five packages; each package contains ten different cards. The school pays fifteen cents a package, and sells them at twenty-five cents, the profit being used as the school decides. Our people, we believe, will be glad to buy these cards, if offered to them. FRITZ.

The firm of Ernst Kaufmann, New York and Chicago, has sent us the following items: —

Day by Day with Jesus, Calendar for 1928. The joint work of over 100 of our ministers from all parts of the country; edited by *W. H. T. Dau*, president of Valparaiso University. 60 cts.

Crown Him Lord of All. Stories of the world's great, whose delight was in the service of the Lord Jesus. By *Prof. Th. Graebner*. 30 cts.

Bringing Christ to the Ojibways in Michigan. Christmas in the Black Belt. By *Prof. W. G. Polack*. A new series of Missionary Hero Stories from mission-fields at home and abroad. 30 cts. each.

Under the Christmas-Tree. By *Uncle Timothy* (Prof. Th. Graebner). Another of the famous Golden Hour Series of Bible stories, narratives, and poetry for children eight to ten, gathered by Uncle Timothy. 30 cts.

In His Keeping. By *Prof. Th. Graebner*. Stories for boys and girls of lively action, each illustrating a clean Christian moral. 30 cts.

Guests of Holy Night. By *Prof. Th. Graebner*. Stories for Christian Folks. 50 cts.

We heartily recommend the above items to our readers. They may order them from Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.

