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Do Modernists Play Fair?

The above caption is suggested by the title of a book which appeared last year and created somewhat of a stir, namely, "Do Fundamentalists Play Fair?" by Wm. Mentzel Forrest, Professor of Biblical History and Literature, University of Virginia. The work is a vehement onslaught on the Fundamentalists, and the author's aim is to rebuke them for not playing fair in their battle with the Modernists. Although not endorsing some of the views advocated by prominent Fundamentalists, the Lutheran Church in its conservative section is in hearty accord with these people when they defend the inerrancy of the Scriptures, the deity of Christ, and the vicarious atonement. The attack of the book mentioned on the positions held by Fundamentalists is directed against all who believe that the Bible is an infallible guide; the arguments the writer advances to undermine the authority of the Scriptures are the ones the Lutheran pastor has to meet in the performance of his work. We here are challenged to reexamine and to defend our faith. It will help us in our battle for the truth when we see what methods one of the champions of the Modernists resorts to in his attempt to deliver fatal blows. Since the book is professedly written in the interest of justice and fairness in the present controversy, its writer ought not to fail to exhibit these qualities; but, strange to say, they are the very things which are conspicuously absent. Let me present proof as I go from chapter to chapter.

Mr. Forrest's first chapter has the heading: "No Fair Evolution Only." The point he wishes to make is that the person who adheres strictly to the Bible teaching has no right to brand evolution as false and at the same time to retain the great body of science, such as geology, astronomy, and biology, inasmuch as these sciences, he says, clash with the Bible as completely as the theory of evolution does. We ask, Is it fair to make such sweeping statements? Geology does not itself conflict with the Scriptures. As long as it is descriptive, it does not deny a single statement of the Bible. When it gets to be speculative and presents hypoth-

BOOK REVIEW.

My Church. An illustrated Lutheran manual, pertaining principally to the history, work, and spirit of the Augustana Synod. Vol. XII. Edited by *Rev. Ira Oliver Nothstein, M. A.*, Librarian of Augustana College and Theological Seminary. 130 pages, 5×7½. (Augustana Book Concern, Rock Island, Ill.)

This is an excellent little manual, written for members of the Augustana Synod. The first part is devoted to general facts relating to the Lutheran Church, among which we find a fine statement of the "Funda-

mental Principles of Divine Service," based upon Luther's German Mass. The second part is devoted to the work of the Augustana Synod, especially its missions at home and abroad. A similar work for our young people, for our laymen in general, on the Missouri Synod is highly desirable.

MUELLER.

Predigten Dr. Martin Luthers. Auf Grund von Nachschriften Georg Roerers und Anton Lauterbachs. Bearbeitet von *Georg Buchwald*. Zweiter Band, vom 16. Oktober 1530 bis zum 14. April 1532. 666 pages, 7×10. \$5.40. (E. Bertelsmanns Verlag, Guetersloh.) Order from Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.

This is the second volume of the excellent collection of sermons which Luther preached between October 16, 1530, and April 14, 1532. The collection has been edited by Georg Buchwald. Luther, the great preacher, tireless in his efforts to teach and explain the Word of God, here speaks to us in sermons which hitherto have not been made accessible to the general public. The volume is well bound, and the print is clear and up to date. An index covering both volumes is appended.

MUELLER.

The Augustana Synod of North America. Minutes of the 67th annual convention, 1926, held in Zion-St. Michael Lutheran Church, Philadelphia, Pa.

This is a very voluminous report. Whoever wishes to inform himself on the Augustana Synod will here find much material. Excerpts from the president's report will be found in the Theological Observer section.

Women of the Bible. New Testament. By *Rev. Algot Theodore Lundholm*. \$1.50. (Augustana Book Concern, Rock Island, Ill.) Order from Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.

This is the second volume of the author's *Women of the Bible*. It treats the most prominent women mentioned in the New Testament: Elisabeth, Mary, Anna, Martha, Mary, "the woman who lived to worship," Mary Magdalene, Herodias, Sapphira, Dorcas, Lydia, etc. The events of their lives are briefly sketched, and lessons and warnings are appended for Christian women of our times. Mariamne, "the wife of a wicked monarch," might have been omitted from the series, since she really does not belong to this group of New Testament women, and the true facts of her life and character are too uncertain. The same may be said of "the Elect Lady, or the Christian Matron," to whom, as the author and many others suppose, the Second Epistle of St. John is addressed. Lessons of instruction must be based upon well-established facts and not upon conjecture. The chief merit of this interesting and instructive book is the fact that it presents many lessons of practical piety, which are sorely needed at this time, when Christian faith and love are on the decrease even among those who bear the name of our Savior.

MUELLER.

In Luthers Spuren. Unser Christenglaube auf Grund des Lutherschen Kleinen Katechismus in der Sprache unserer Zeit. Fuer Pfarrer, Lehrer und andere Freunde der Jugend. Dargestellt von *Arnold Waubke*, Pfarrer in Bielefeld. Zweite, umgestaltete Auflage. 456 pages, 6½×9½. \$3.30. (Druck und Verlag von E. Bertelsmann in Guetersloh.)

On the basis of Luther's Catechism the author in this volume, which evidently has been well received in Germany, purposes to set forth the evangelical faith. The book is well written, and the principal teachings

of the evangelical faith are set forth clearly and in grippingly popular language. Only it is not always Luther's doctrine which the writer teaches, especially when he presents those points where the great Reformer asserted Scriptural truth over against Zwinglian rationalism. The author denies that infant baptism is commanded in the Bible, p. 316; that infants can believe (*der "Saeuglingsglaube" ist ein Traum*), p. 316; and he teaches that infant baptism is justified only because it is "*eine anschauliche Zeichenpredigt von dem Neuen Bund*," p. 317. With regard to the doctrine of the Lord's Supper he deplores Luther's narrow-mindedness, p. 329, and thanks God because "we have been enlightened more than Luther" and that the barriers between Lutherans and the Reformed have been removed, p. 330.

MUELLER.

Taegliche Andachten. Kleinere Ausgabe von *Fuers Haus*. Von A. Clemen, Kirchenrat. 74.—78. Tausend. 640 pages, 4½×6½. \$1.20. (Verlag von E. Bertelsmann in Guetersloh, 1925.)

This is the third edition of Clemen's popular book of devotion "*Fuers Haus*," the second edition of which appeared in 1886. Each meditation consists of a hymn stanza, a Scripture-passage, a devotional reading, and a concluding stanza. The reviewer did not read every page of the book, but those devotions which he perused he found wholesome and edifying. The fact that thousands of copies of this well-known book of devotion have been sold, proves that it has supplied a real demand. The binding is simple, but durable, and the format enables the owner to take it with him wherever he goes.

MUELLER.

The Anthology of Jesus. Arranged and edited by *Sir Thomas Marchant*, K. B. E., LL. D. \$2.50. (Harper & Bros., Publishers, New York and London.)

The author of this artistically bound volume has collected from a great variety of sources striking utterances concerning our Lord Jesus Christ. Most of the items are very brief; those that cover a page or more are comparatively few. Poetry is represented as well as prose. The doctrinal point of view varies, of course, with that of the writers quoted. At the side of Josephus and Goethe we have, for instance, Newman, Cowper, and Gellert; the liberal and the conservative both speak here. The book is divided into 43 sections, which topically deal with the life and the teachings of our Savior. It is provided with excellent indexes, so that one can easily find whether or not a certain writer is represented.

Spiritual Adventuring. Studies in Jesus' Way of Life. By *Bertha Conde*. 171 pages 5¼×7¾. \$1.00, net. (Cokesbury Press, Nashville, Tenn.) Order from Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.

An evangelical spirit pervades this book. It is written to persuade Christians to live closer to Christ and to give evidence thereof in their daily lives. In her foreword the author says: "The dimensions of the spiritual life are too limitless to make it possible for any one to do more than make a few studies of certain aspects of the teaching of Jesus. They are offered in the hope that they will suggest some of the ways of victorious living and lead us as Christians to give ourselves wholly to the business of possessing our spiritual inheritance." A few samples from some of the chapters follow: "Most of us haven't time, we say, for the life of love. It interferes too much with our easy and comfortable

routine. Most of us find it easier to love God, whom we have not seen, than to love our brother, whom we have seen. It is easier to walk with God and listen to His voice, if it does not disturb our well-ordered living, than to walk with our neighbor, for whom we would have to readjust our plans. To love God and walk with Him is inspiration; but to love our neighbor and walk with him involves perspiration." "Some of us are glad to help the orphans in the Near East when our hearts are cold to the orphans in our town. Why is this? The secret generally lies in the fact that we do not have to change our plans or worry over the perplexities of helping those who are close to us. We can invest a little money in the Orient and then go about our comfortable way, pretending that we are more interested in foreign than home missions. What we really mean is that we are more interested in clearing our own path from contact with bruised and needy humanity. Truly did Jesus expect us to go out into all the world; but he also said, 'Begin first in Jerusalem.' Interest in the needs of the whole world is the widening reach of a love which cannot be satisfied till every one rejoices in the protection of God's love." "What does the cause of Christ need most to-day? We think it is money, or workers, or buildings, or multitudes of followers. None of these are needed so much as a few who will dare once more to wait in prayer for the power from on high. It is not a gift for the mighty or the high officials only; it is for those of humble heart who dare to take Jesus at His word. Are we willing now to make this of first importance? There is no limit to what may come if we fulfil the condition. Peter became transformed from a coward into the boldest of all followers of Jesus. Thousands came to know Jesus Christ those few days in Jerusalem because he had waited for the promise of the Father." FRITZ.

The Lord's Anointed. By *Henri De Vries*. 384 pages, 5¼×7½. \$2.50. (Marshall Brothers, Limited, London.) Order from Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.

The author is a pastor emeritus of the Dutch Reformed Church in Peekskill, N. Y. He has translated Dr. Abraham Kuyper's *The Work of the Holy Spirit* and also published a number of original works on Biblical subjects. *The Lord's Anointed* is called in the subtitle "A Series of Devotional Studies on the Redemptive Work of Christ." It is a polemic against Modernism, and it is more than that. It is a most complete exhibition of the mediatorial work of Christ as seen under the threefold aspect of Prophet, Priest, and King. Dr. De Vries accepts both the Old and the New Testament unreservedly as the Word of God. The deity of Christ and His mediatorship are treated, with strong emphasis upon a truly substitutionary atonement, an expiatory death for our sins—"the conscience cannot be satisfied with anything less." Man is helpless, and his state is hopeless. "With reference to God and holiness his will is bound, free only towards sin."—We cannot accept in every point the author's exegesis of the texts employed to prove the distinction between the kingdom of God and the Church, but what he says about the purpose of the Church and the establishment of the Kingdom avoids the pitfalls both of Modernism and of Chiliastic enthusiasm and contains portions which for utter eloquence are unique in the more recent discussion of dogma. GRAEBNER.

Das religioese Angesicht Amerikas. Einzeleindruecke und Charakterzuege von *Lic. Dr. Hermann Werdermann*. 325 pages, 6½×9½. \$3.00. (Verlag von E. Bertelsmann, Guetersloh.)

For half a year the author of this interesting volume lectured at Eden Seminary, Webster Groves, Mo., and during this time he endeavored to study, as much as he could, church conditions in our country. Himself a thorough unionist, he attended as many services as possible, participated in joint conferences of church groups, visited some of the prominent theological seminaries, discussed the situation with men prominent in church circles, and gathered much information from papers and periodicals. His work is rather a sketch of impressions than an accurate description of conditions obtaining in the American Church. Its most marked defect is that it fails to recognize and appreciate the Lutheran Church in the United States, in which the author seems to have been interested very little. He deplores the division of this body, p. 210; regrets the narrowness of the Missouri Synod, p. 199; in particular, its faithful adherence to the doctrine of verbal inspiration, p. 75; yet he praises its many activities, p. 74, and its simple church services and the reverent attitude of the worshipers, p. 60.

MUELLER.

Geistesleben in Tibet. By *Dr. A. Hermann Francke*. 80 pages. \$1.65. (Verlag von E. Bertelsmann in Guetersloh.) Order from Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.

This is the second volume of *Allgemeine Missionstudien*, published by Dr. Richter of Berlin and Director of Missions D. M. Schlunk of Hamburg. In eight brief, critical, and well-written chapters it presents the language and characteristics, the history, literature, religion, and folk-lore, of the extremely exclusive peoples of Tibet, but also shows the all-dominating influence of Buddhism and also dwells upon the Christian mission literature distributed among them. The book is supplied with numerous excellent illustrations, which greatly add to its charm. While it is of little practical value, it stimulates interest in the vast peoples of Tibet, who as yet have been reached only exceptionally by Christian missionaries.

MUELLER.

How We Got Our Bible. By *J. P. Smyth*. 1925. 153 pages. \$1.00 net. (James Pott & Co., New York.) Order from Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.

What is meant is the translation of the Bible into English. The author describes, in an entertaining, popular style, the important ancient manuscripts of the Hebrew and Greek Testaments, those of the ancient versions, and the writings of the Church Fathers, whose quotations are used to reestablish the original texts. Pretty fair facsimiles illustrate these first three chapters. Then, on 70 pages, the author traces the history of the great English translations to Tyndale. The rest of the book defends the thesis that the Revised Version is superior to the Authorized Version because the men who worked on the latter were not able to use the entire material of textual criticism now available. For a survey the little work is useful enough. However, it is a reprint of 1899, and time-references like "fifty years" ago, correct in 1899, should have been changed if the book was to escape the rebuke of slovenly editorship.

R. W. H.

The Spiritual Element in History. By *Robert W. McLaughlin*. 312 pages, 5½×8. \$2.50. (Abingdon Press, New York.) Order from Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.

A philosophy of history devoted to the vindication of a divine element in the rise and fall of nations and civilizations. The volume is significant as supplying further evidence of the trend away from materialism which we have noted in More's *The Dogma of Evolution* and which has found expression more recently in interviews of Henry Fairfield Osborne and Thomas Edison.

GRAEBNER.

The Measure of a Man. By *Arthur W. Spalding*. 1925. 161 pages. \$1.50. (Geo. H. Doran Co., New York.) Order from Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.

The thirteen talks, to a boy about sixteen years old in the first and to a young man of about twenty in the second part, arouse and maintain the reader's attention and interest, and in most cases they will gain his assent. The language is modern, virile, straightforward; the author speaks like a "pal." He knows the habits and attitude of modern man, the perversions of God-given capacities and relations, such as love and marriage, mental improvement, thrift. His method is to draw a picture of upright, honest, circumspect, pure, reverent, industrious, young men, such as accept the Bible and believe in the "salvation through Jesus, the divine Son of God," and to let this exercise its power of attraction. Any one that deals with adolescents will get a good stock of suggestions from this book. Mr. Spalding's sons are to be congratulated.

R. W. H.

United Churches. By *Elizabeth R. Hooker*. 306 pages, 5½×8. \$2.75. (Geo. H. Doran Co., New York.)

Under the auspices of the Institute of Social and Religious Research the author has in this volume traced the recent development of church union in our country. Types which have developed are: the Federated Church, the Undenominational Church, the Denominational United Church, and the Affiliated Church. In general, the drift in our country is toward union of churches under one or another of these types. The problems, organization, services, and aims of the new united churches are represented upon the basis of carefully gathered statistical data. From these it is evident that Protestant churches are rapidly becoming well-organized social institutions, in which doctrinal matters are replaced by social objectives. The Lutheran Church in the United States is not considered in these discussions; that, however, the confessional Lutheran Church, with its emphasis on sound doctrine, has a tremendous mission in this time of general confusion and disregard for true values becomes strikingly clear to every one who studies the pages of this volume.

MUELLER.

American Writers and Compilers of Sacred Music. By *Frank J. Metcalf*. 5×8. \$2.00. (Abingdon Press, New York.)

A very readable series of biographical sketches, arranged by dates, of the American composers of religious tunes. A great deal of human interest has been woven into these outlines, and the book is illustrated by reproductions of manuscripts and prints significant in the story of the American hymn.

GRAEBNER.