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Vale atque Ave.

Our readers, we are sure, will indulge us as we are employing the ancient *Ave atque Vale* in inverted order. Owing to the decision arrived at by the last convention of our synodical body, the THEOLOGICAL MONTHLY is now bidding its readers farewell, but it is a farewell which includes a cheerful, cordial *Auf Wiedersehen!* The resolution of Synod reads: "*Resolved, That Lehre und Wehre, the THEOLOGICAL MONTHLY, and the Homiletisches Magazin be merged into one monthly.*" In keeping with this resolution of the organization to which the THEOLOGICAL MONTHLY belongs and which primarily it has sought to serve, our journal will now cease to have a separate existence; but it is hoped that, when the new journal appears next January, embodying the THEOLOGICAL MONTHLY and its older sisters, it will be found to have a wider range of usefulness than any one of the three magazines mentioned had in the past. *Unitis viribus!* was the motto in the minds of the delegates when they voted for the resolution merging our three theological magazines. May, under the kind dispensation of God, the fond hope which inspired the action of Synod be fully realized! That the policy of the new journal will be the same as that of our papers in the past, that the earnest endeavor of the editors will be to set forth and defend the teachings of the Word of God as promulgated in the Confessions of the Lutheran Church, does not need any special emphasis. It will not be amiss to state here the conviction that the splendid work done by the two men who gave most generously of their time and talents for the success of the MONTHLY and its predecessor, the *Theological Quarterly*, Dr. W. H. T. Dau and Dr. A. L. Graebner, will not be forgotten. The new journal will bear the title *Concordia Theological Monthly* and will cost \$3.50 a year. In conclusion, journals such as ours come and go, but *Verbum Dei manet in aeternum.*

Λ.

BOOK REVIEW.

Light in the Dark Belt. By *Rosa Young*. 148 pages, $5\frac{1}{4} \times 7\frac{1}{2}$. 80 cts.
David Livingstone. By *W. G. Polack*. Vol. VII of *Men and Missions*.
 107 pages. 50 cts. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

Are you looking for some good new books for Christmas? Here they are. Both of these books will make good Christmas presents for children, young people, or adults. Rosa Young tells her own story and that of our Lutheran mission among the colored in the Black Belt of Alabama. She tells it in a fascinating and inspiring way: the sad conditions found among the people of her race, the wonderful ways of God, her love for Christ and her self-sacrificing love for her people, and her appreciation of the Lutheran Church and its doctrines.—Professor Polack tells the story of David Livingstone, who at the age of ten worked in a cotton-mill from six o'clock in the morning till eight o'clock at night, attended night-school from eight to ten, and from ten to twelve at midnight read and studied, and who at the age of sixteen desired to become a missionary, and, after getting his theological and medical training at the University of Glasgow, sailed for Africa as a missionary and explorer.—Both stories tell us how God at times uses one single person to accomplish great things in His kingdom. No one can read either one of these two stories without being strengthened in his faith and encouraged to larger missionary efforts on behalf of a world lost in sin, but redeemed by Christ. These two books present two truly wonderful stories glorifying the grace of God given us in the Savior born at Bethlehem. The two books ought to have a large sale at this season of the year.

J. H. C. F.

Summary of United States History and Civil Government. By *H. B. Fehner, M. A.* 112 pages, 50 cts. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

This is an unpretentious, but very valuable little book. The first part, on the History of the United States, was first written by the author in 1905, when he was a schoolteacher in Cleveland, O. In 1908 he added the second part, on Civil Government. Both are now bound into one book and have been so favorably received that the seventh edition has just left the press. It is brought up to date, including Hoover's administration. A complete text of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States is printed. Out of the schoolroom it will well serve as a reference book and a book for ready review of some things that have been forgotten and yet are important to know.

J. H. C. F.

The Glorious Dawn. A Christmas Cantata. Music by *E. H. Brumm, B. M.*
 Words by *C. L. Wind*. 56 pages, $6\frac{7}{8} \times 10$. Single copy, 90 cts.; in
 dozen lots, 72 cts. a copy. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis,
 Mo.)

This is a new Christmas cantata by a new composer. It has a good text, pleasing harmony, choir and solo parts, parts for a male chorus and for a children's chorus, all of which is preceded by, and interspersed with, special organ music and old Christmas melodies. The rendition of this cantata will be a fine Christmas offering of an ambitious choir and choir-leader.

J. H. C. F.

Holy Night. Children's Christmas Service. Compiled by *H. F. Bade* and *Theo. Struckmeyer*. 16 pages, $4\frac{3}{4} \times 7\frac{1}{4}$. Per copy, 5 cts.; dozen, 50 cts.; 100, \$3.50. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

As Christmas again approaches, pastors and teachers will look about for a new Christmas program which will guide the children in telling the same old Gospel of the Savior's birth. *Holy Night* is such a program, containing questions and answers, recitations and songs, and at the very beginning of the program—we like this arrangement very much—an address by the pastor.

J. H. C. F.

A Brief Survey of Scripture. By *Frank E. Gaebelin, M. A.*, 456 Fourth Ave., New York City. 90 pages, $5 \times 7\frac{1}{2}$. 75 cts.

The author, who is head master of a private school for boys on Long Island and son of the well-known Fundamentalist writer and lecturer, proposes the thesis that the Bible structurally falls into five great natural divisions, or "Pentateuchs," and each of these again into five major groups. He believes that in this underlying structure there is proof for the divine origin of the Bible. A brief analysis of the various books is given, valuable even if one does not accept the author's major thesis.

G.

Die Weltanschauung der Bibel. Von *Karl Heim*. Fuenfte Auflage. M. 2.40; bound, M. 3.50. (A. Deichertsche Verlagsbuchhandlung, Dr. Werner Scholl, Leipzig.)

Among the apologetic books that have appeared during the last ten years or so this is one of the most appealing. Written in a lucid, virile style, facing the issues with true frankness, the treatise can prove helpful in the present conflict with unbelief. But it requires discerning readers. Conservative Lutherans will see with regret that the author does not accept the verbal inspiration of the Scriptures and is willing to discount the Genesis narrative of creation and of the fall of man, distinguishing between the outward form of the account and its divine content. He furthermore criticizes the teaching of the *satisfactio vicaria*, holding that expressions describing Jesus as our Substitute and our Sacrifice are figurative and merely rest on analogies which must not be pressed. In his view we cannot go further than say: "Jesus has done for us what we could not do." His opposition to the old Lutheran teaching in the last analysis is due to unwillingness to accept the plain statements of Scripture. Every now and then a strong statement is found combating Pelagianism, materialism, and atheism, respectively.

A.

The System Bible Study. Being an Effort to Give the Most Complete, the Most Concise, and the Most Useful Book of Classified Bible Helps. By Many of the World's Greatest Bible Scholars. Revised and enlarged edition of 1927. (The System Bible Company, Chicago, Ill.)

It is reassuring to see that in spite of the blatant opposition to the Holy Scriptures, so much in evidence these days, the holy Book itself continues to rule, and new editions of it and helps for its understanding are constantly being issued. The book before us is intended, as the introduction says, to equip Bible students with Scriptural knowledge and Scriptural

power. It is not a Bible, but a book about the Bible. In various respects it is an excellent work. The binding is superb and the print good. Among the men that contributed to this volume are some of America's foremost Bible scholars. We find among them Dr. Henry E. Jacobs of Mount Airy, Dr. J. A. Faulkner of Drew Theological Seminary, Dr. G. Campbell Morgan of England, and, representing the faculty of the Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville, Ky., such well-known men as the late Dr. Mullins, Dr. Robertson, and the present president, Dr. Sampey. The book presents much historical information that is of great value to the Bible student. In fact, the first section of the book may be called an abridged Bible dictionary. At the end of this section we have several good maps and recent photographs of Bible lands that are exceedingly worth while. The second section of the book has the heading "Classified Scriptures." It has grouped, for instance, the laws of the Bible, general prophecies and their fulfilment, prophecies concerning Jesus and their fulfilment, the four gospels paralleled (the Gospel harmony by A. T. Robertson), the interwoven gospels, or the four-in-one gospel, etc. Next follows a part containing these three subdivisions: "How to Study the Bible and How to Teach the Bible"; "The Story between the Testaments"; "Differences between the Versions." Finally, there is a part of which the subdivisions are "Character-building and Moral Philosophy" and "An Index Covering Subjects throughout the Work."

To us the most useful sections seem to be the Bible dictionary (called "Historical Digest"), the chronological charts, the recent photographs, and the harmony of the four gospels. Unfortunately the work is not without its defects. While the little article on the Lord's Supper correctly sets forth the Scripture doctrine, being written by Dr. Jacobs, the paragraph on Baptism plainly bears the Reformed stamp. We are told there that Baptism is "symbolic of regeneration"; that "it signifies the forgiveness of sin." The great truth that it washes away sin is not brought out. In the "Historical Digest" the discussion of the various books of the Bible is not altogether free from Modernistic leaven. Concerning the first chapter of Genesis we read, for instance: "The fact that the creation of the sun is placed in the fourth day is proof that we do not have in this chapter a strictly scientific account of the events sketched; for no modern scientist would place the creation of the sun after that of the earth. While the scientist must admire much in this sketch of the creative process as anticipating some of the views of modern students of nature, he would not interpret the Hebrew story as a cold and scientifically accurate account of the order of events." On the authorship of the Book of Ecclesiastes we read: "The Book of Ecclesiastes was written by Solomon or by some one who impersonated Solomon and drew the lesson of his experience. Critical opinion is almost unanimous in placing the author very late among Old Testament writers; not earlier than 400 and probably as late as 200 B. C." Dr. Sampey, the writer of the above statements, apparently did not perceive that such remarks impugn the inerrancy of the Holy Scriptures. Parts of the book rather deserve to be classified as sacred rhetoric than as Bible helps. This is true, for instance, of the section by G. Campbell Morgan on the subject: "How to Study and How to Teach the Bible." Here we first meet with preliminary considerations, classified thus: "A. As to the Bible, it is: 1) religious, 2) dual, 3) triple, 4) multiple, 5) unified. B. As to the

study, it requires: 1) honesty, 2) reverence, 3) diligence, 4) system, 5) response." The elaboration of these points is interesting, but to our mind has no place in a book like the one under consideration, being rather sermoniac in character.—In one other respect the Bible student who purchases this volume is quite certain to be disappointed. At times he will be looking in vain for information which he expects to find here. Perhaps he wishes to ascertain what Bible scholars on the basis of Scripture say about Satan. Consulting the index, he will find that the book contains no article under this title. Turning to the Scripture quotations, he will find a section having the superscription "Satan," and here, it is true, there are printed many important passages of the New Testament that treat of Satan, or the devil; in another section he will find sayings of Satan; but that is all that is furnished him on this subject. Consulting the title "Devils," he will discover that very little information is submitted, and under the caption "Possessed with Devils," the "Historical Digest" even makes bold to say, without adding a word of correction: "It is thought by many that Jesus merely adopted the popular mode of speech in His age in speaking of demoniac possession and healed the unfortunate sufferers without sharing in the view commonly taken of their diseases." We see, then, that the book cannot receive our whole-hearted endorsement. Those who wish to use it have to do so with great care lest they be led into error. A.

The Church in History. By *Arthur Wilford Nagler*, Associate Professor of Church History in Garrett Biblical Institute. 468 pages. \$3.00. (The Abingdon Press, New York.)

This volume represents a novel departure from the ordinary way in which compendia of church history are written. It is divided into two parts. In the first part the author gives a survey of church history from its beginning to the present time, while in the second he offers a series of studies of different aspects of Christianity as seen in its historical development, as for example: the significant institutions of the Church, the special aspects of its life and thought, the manifold influence bearing upon it, and the moral and spiritual forces it set in motion. Church history, treated in this way, ceases to be a mere chronicle of events and becomes a living, vital thing, full of interest to the reader. Of course, this treatment has also its serious faults; it is liable to be subjective, one-sided, and incomplete, and the picture presented to the student may be blurred. Nevertheless, Professor Nagler's book has many merits. It is based upon profound and extensive study and offers much valuable material, including the present time—Ritschl, Troeltsch, and even Karl Barth. In many instances, however, the author's judgment is woefully wrong and the evidence of prejudice manifest. As a sample we may offer his opinion of the Formula of Concord, a book held in high esteem by all confessional Lutherans. He writes: "What might be called an expansion of this standard confession [the Augsburg Confession] is known as the Formula of Concord, published in 1580. Even in its shorter form, the Epitome, it contains a very profuse explanation in scholastic terminology of disputed points in theology, closing with a lengthy refutation of the heresies of the Anabaptists, the Schwenkfeldians, the New Arians, and the anti-Trinitarians. The Augsburg Confession vibrates with life, but here we begin to enter the

valley of doctrinal dry bones. The Confession is still a standard in practically all Lutheran churches; the Formula of Concord has sunk into deserved oblivion" (p. 350). Similar incorrect and harsh judgments may be traced to the author's evident repugnance to definite doctrinal and confessional statements. We regret that these blemishes mar the book, which in many respects is an excellent guide to the study of the history of the Christian Church. The bibliography appended shows that the author failed to study just those books which might have led him to a deeper appreciation of the great doctrines presented so well in the Formula of Concord.

MUELLER.

Church Profit-Making. Is It Right? Does It Pay? By *Frederick A. Agar*. 87 pages. \$1.00. (Fleming H. Revell Company.)

In the foreword the author says: "There is a right and proper way in which God's moneys may be produced; on the other hand, there are ways of providing money for church purposes that are injurious and essentially wrong. It is the purpose of this book to help church-members to distinguish between proper production and the providing of moneys by means and methods that are distinctly wrong." We pass this book on to our readers and urge especially those whose churches are raising moneys by such schemes as fairs, sales, and the like, to give the book a careful reading. In the final analysis, the question to be answered is: What, in the eyes of the Lord, is *Christian giving*? The Lord has not left this question unanswered. The whole matter in reference to the support of the Church by God's children must be studied in the light of the Scriptures. While Mr. Agar's attitude over against the money-making schemes used by churches is right, we do miss the direct Scriptural reference in his discussion.

J. H. C. F.

Enlisting Laymen. Facts and Methods for Churchmen Concerned with Raising Spiritual Production. By *Frederick A. Agar*. 79 pages, $5\frac{1}{4} \times 7\frac{3}{4}$. \$1.00. (The Judson Press, Philadelphia.)

There are thought-provoking, inspiring, practical statements in this book. The purpose of the book is to persuade the entire membership of the local congregation to understand their privileges, opportunities, and responsibilities. The author points out that every Christian in the church has divine obligations, but that many are not making a real, sincere effort at fulfilling them. A few quotations from the book are herewith given: "Half of the members of the average church are neglected and allowed to drift without love and consequently without real care. In part this is the result of indifference, and in part it is the result of fear; but both the indifference and the fear find their cause in a failure to love one another." "The average local church falters as it comes to dealing with its members, and despite the wealth of Scriptural teaching and the real ability of the people to give some money, it can still be said that at least half the members fail to contribute anything for any purpose within the life of the church." "In the New Testament there are found some seventy-seven passages of Scripture that refer to the disciplining of church-members." "In spiritual affairs machinery must never take the place of personal ministries. A lot of love and personal work with just a little machinery is the

high road to victory." We cannot, of course, agree that tithing is *commanded* also in the New Testament, nor can we subscribe to such a statement as this: "A constant week-by-week stewardship acknowledgment of the Lordship of Jesus Christ by the payment of moneys, 'as God hath prospered you,' is surely just as important and uplifting as remembering Christ through the picture of His broken body and shed blood."

J. H. C. F.

Principles of Effective Speaking. By *William Phillips Sandford* and *Willard Hayes Yeager*. 416 pages, 5×7¾. \$2.25. (Thomas Nelson and Sons, New York.)

A preacher of the Gospel need not be a good elocutionist or a great orator, but he must be a good public speaker. His work in the pulpit demands this. A sermon may be ever so good in reference to its construction and its contents, yet it will not serve its purpose if it is poorly delivered. Good speaking is an art which must be learned. It requires, of course, a certain amount of natural ability; the natural ability, however, must be developed along the right lines. The book *Principles of Effective Speaking*, not long off the press, has been written by two instructors at the University of Illinois. It is herewith recommended to preachers. In the preface the authors say: "We have tried to write an inclusive elementary text, which gives consideration to all of the phases of content, composition, and delivery in proportion to what we believe to be their relative importance." In the table of contents we find such chapter-heads as the following: Audience Analysis and Control, Elements of Interestingness, Special Speech Devices, Fundamentals of Delivery, The Speaking Voice. It is noteworthy that a book on public speaking does not treat simply the delivery, but in connection therewith the speech structure. The reason is that good delivery requires the right kind of, and the most careful, preparation.

J. H. C. F.

The Christian Motive and Method in Stewardship. By *Henry Burton Trimble*. 227 pages, 5¼×7½. \$1.00. (Cokesbury Press, Nashville, Tenn.)

In paging through this book and reading portions of it, we fail to find that the author makes that motive of Christian stewardship stand out of which Paul speaks 2 Cor. 8, 8:9: "Prove the sincerity of your love; for ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor that ye through His poverty might be rich." The author says: "A whole philosophy of history is contained in the sixteenth verse of the third chapter of John. A God of infinite love is seeking the redemption of the world through the voluntary response and loyalty of persons to that ideal of God. Such a conception at once removes God from the category of the negative, the reposeful, and the inactive and regards His presence in the world as that of a benevolent Being of infinite compassion, employing His resources for the accomplishment of a task worthy of Himself, both in magnitude and in quality of work to be done."

J. H. C. F.