

Concordia Theological Monthly



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ARCHIVES

BOOK REVIEW

All books reviewed in this periodical may be procured from or through Concordia Publishing House, 3558 South Jefferson Avenue, St. Louis 18, Missouri.

THE IMAGE OF GOD IN MAN. By David S. Cairns. Philosophical Library, New York. 256 pages, 5½×6½. \$4.50.

This is a most interesting, though at times misleading, study of the meaning of the "image of God in man" in Scripture, in the mystery religions, in the Church Fathers, in Luther, Calvin, Brunner, and Barth. As Dr. Cairns is himself a student of Brunner, his final definition of the "image of God in man" pretty well agrees with that of his teacher. What the author ultimately seeks to show is the dignity of man, recognized in Christianity, but rejected by modern Communism and totalitarianism of all kinds. He rejects Luther's doctrine that "the Genesis image and likeness" refers to "man's original righteousness" (p. 127). He holds that in the New Testament the expression applies to Christ, to all believers, and to all men even in their sin. He recognizes the Lutheran use of the expression "image of God" in a wider and a narrower sense and offers his view as an alternative to the traditional doctrine. In the estimation of the reviewer, the dignity of man and the relation of love of one man toward another, even though the Christian's neighbor be an unbeliever and unworthy of love, can be emphasized much more clearly and sharply if the Lutheran view of a wider sense of God's image is held than by that of the author, whose expositions frequently lack in clarity and definiteness. Dr. Cairns holds the divine confrontation view of Brunner (p. 205) and, following him, does not believe the Biblical accounts of man's creation and fall to be historical.

J. T. MUELLER

THE READER'S BIBLE. Oxford University Press, New York, 1951. xlvii and 1938 pages, 3 maps. Cloth. \$6.50.

PSALMS, PROVERBS, ECCLESIASTES. With 30 monochrome wood engravings by Clare Leighton. Doubleday and Co., Inc., Garden City, N. Y., 1952. xii and 304 pages. Cloth. \$3.95.

The title page of the first volume describes it as "designed for general reading." It has many virtues. For one thing, it is a thoroughly admirable example of bookmaking; type, page design, paper color, and binding, all make for effortless reading. Second, it is complete where many editions of the Authorized Version are defective. It contains the familiar Epistle

Dedicatory, of course. But it also contains the less well-known and vitally important preface, "The Translators to the Reader." Familiarity with this preface might have obviated some of the ill-considered statements that critics of the Revised Standard Version have leveled at the purpose behind that document. The present volume also contains the Old Testament Apocrypha, the omission of which from our conventional English Bibles represents the triumph at this point of radical Protestantism over the conservative tradition both of the Anglican Communion and of our Lutheran Symbolical Books and dogmaticians, with a resultant spiritual impoverishment of all of us. A third advantage is that it reproduces the familiar text of the Authorized Version — without notes or cross references to complicate the reading and to distract the reader — in the manner of a twentieth-century book, with a single-column page. Narrative portions appear in paragraph form. The punctuation is modern. Quotation marks identify direct speech. Poetry — even in quotation — looks like poetry, not like prose. In order to orient the reader, each book or group of books has a brief introduction, based as far as possible on the consensus of modern English Biblical scholarship. These introductions would often be genuinely helpful to the general lay reader, but the liberal cast of the scholarship that produced them will probably alienate many conservative readers who might otherwise have welcomed an edition of the Authorized Version that made its familiar words so much more timely looking and attractive than the conventional printings. The fact that it is a single volume confers both obvious advantages and no less obvious disadvantages.

The publishers of the second title designed it to be, and it makes its appeal as, a *beautiful* book. They have achieved this purpose magnificently. Clare Leighton's sensitive and stimulating wood engravings are superb. The handsome design of the volume by Alma Reese Cardi, apparent from cover to cover and on every page between, makes this book a delight to own and a privilege to give. Printed as poetry, one column to the page, it contains the three books listed on the title page plus "the First Psalm of David" (1 Chron. 16:6-36). The Authorized Version — without notes or cross references — is used throughout.

ARTHUR CARL PIEPKORN

DOGMAIC THEOLOGY. By William G. T. Shedd. Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Mich. Volume I, x and 546 pages, \$4.95. Volume II, v and 803 pages, \$4.95.

This 65-year-old classic of American Calvinistic dogmatics by a distinguished Union Theological Seminary professor of two generations ago has long been out of print, but here becomes available again in a new reprinting. M. Eugene Oosterhaven of Western Theological Seminary (Christian Reformed) at Holland, Mich., prefaces Volume I with a brief appreciation of Shedd as a speculative systematician which underlines his

strongly philosophical tendencies. Volume I defines theological science and proceeds to a discussion of Bibliology and Theology. Volume II treats Anthropology, Christology, Soteriology, and Eschatology. Volume III is in preparation.

ARTHUR CARL PIEPKORN

LETTERS TO MARK. By James D. Bryden. Harper & Brothers, New York. 150 pages, $5\frac{1}{4} \times 7\frac{3}{4}$. \$2.00.

The author of this book is the Rev. J. D. Bryden, associate pastor of New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, Washington, D. C., where once Lincoln worshiped. His "letters" resulted from a question put to him by a casual churchgoer: "Why is there such senseless suffering and adversity in a world created by an almighty and loving God?" He calls himself "Jim" and the questioner "Mark," and there is a lively dialog between the two in letters which, in the field of apologetics, are worth reading. Mark, an educated person, finally buys and reads the Moffatt translation of the Bible and is recommended to turn for further study to such books as John C. Bennett's *Christian Realism*. George Buttrick's *Parables of Jesus*, Harry Emerson Fosdick's *A Guide to Understanding the Bible*, and to some conservative as well as to some more liberal works. Emphasis finally rests upon God's existence, purposefulness, and love, though in the end the entire discussion is not very convincing. It is evident that belief in God's love, despite the "senseless suffering and adversity in the world," is intimately tied up with the Christian faith in general. Only he can believe that "all things work together for good to them that love God," who out of the depth of his Christian conviction will say with Paul: "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?" (Rom. 8:28, 35.) At this point, as at so many others, apologetics alone must fail.

J. T. MUELLER

THE APPROACH TO PREACHING. By W. E. Sangster. The Westminster Press, Philadelphia, 1952. 112 pages, $5 \times 7\frac{1}{2}$ in. \$2.00.

HERE IS MY METHOD. Edited by Donald Macleod. Fleming H. Revell, Westwood, N. J. 191 pages, $5\frac{1}{2} \times 8$ in. \$2.50.

Here are two books for men preferably already at work in the preaching ministry.

The first provides useful refreshment for basic insights and attitudes. The author, a British Methodist, delivered its content as talks at the six Methodist "theological colleges" in Great Britain. His denomination encourages and clarifies the nature of lay ministries, and the book is a stimulus for men engaged in preaching part or full time. Basic in the book is the stress upon the personal religious and devotional life of the preacher (see, for instance, pp. 31, 108). The book brings common-sense suggestions for the budgeting of time, administration of public worship, oral reading of the Scriptures, and the pastoral work of the preacher basic

to his preaching. Most appreciable for the experienced pastor is the chapter on "The Perils of the Calling," e. g., the concluding "discharging a concern by preaching a sermon on it" (p. 109). This is a good book to circulate among an intimate group of pastors.

Donald Macleod of the Department of Homiletics at Princeton Theological Seminary edits an anthology of thirteen sermons, each prefaced by the preacher's own discussion of his method. The editor states that his volume omits some men who had previous publishing commitments. Of preachers from the United States he presents the Presbyterians Eugene Carson Blake, Henry Sloan Coffin, Clarence Edward Macartney, and John A. Redhead, Jr.; the Congregationalist James Gordon Gilkey; the Methodists Lynn Harold Hough, Gerald Kennedy, and Ralph W. Sockman; and the Baptist Harold Cooke Phillips. Of preachers from Canada are presented Willard Brewing, George Campbell Pidgeon, and John Short; of Scotland, Roderick Bethune. Both the statements on method of preparation and preaching and the sermons themselves are of uneven value. The experienced preacher will greatly enjoy the variety and suggestiveness of the material on method. Among the sermons the most satisfying from the evangelical point of view is that by John Redhead on "The Love of God." To this reviewer the reports on method of Coffin and of Kennedy seemed most useful; but every minister will gather a different yield.

RICHARD R. CAEMMERER

UNDERSTANDING MY CONGREGATION. By Albert P. Stauderman. The Muhlenberg Press, Philadelphia, Pa. Net, 90 cents.

This is a handy little volume of 139 pages intended especially for church workers as a means of training them for leadership. In a popular style the author presents an over-all picture of a congregation and its work. Its value for use in our circles is limited somewhat by the fact that it is orientated in the framework of the U. L. C. A. Nevertheless our pastors might find it useful and stimulating.

O. E. SOHN