

This commentary is part of a series published under the general editorship of Dr. N. B. Stonehouse of Westminster Theological Seminary. The whole set is an astonishing undertaking on the part of Reformed and Presbyterian theologians who follow in the conservative tradition of Dr. J. Gresham Machen. A number of volumes have appeared before this one.

The author of the present volume is a professor at the Seminary in Stellenbosch, South Africa. He is both an exegete and systematician. In general, this work meets the best standards of conservative scholarship.

Dr. Mueller was chosen to do this volume primarily because of his specialized knowledge of the great Christological passage in Philippians 2. The author is correct, we feel, when he refers the opening phrases of Philippians 2:5-8 to the Logos asarkos. Yet it seems strange that for his authority on the use of the aorist in verse 6 Dr. Mueller should appeal to a tertiary source, Gwynn's Speaker's Commentary. One has the feeling that much of what has been done in recent years on this particular passage was not considered. For example, there is much to say for the suggestion that in verse 7 the period should come after the participle ΛΑΒΩΝ. Moreover, exception might be taken to the statement on page 81: "The kenosis of Christ . . . consisted in his 'taking the form of a servant' and 'being made in the likeness of man.'" Some of the best studies on this admittedly difficult text apply the kenosis only to the former phrase. In other words, a distinction is made between the kenosis and the humiliation that follows. It is also regrettable that the author did not come to a clean decision on the significance of the term άρσαυμός.

Of course, the passage under question is extremely knotty. It is not completely fair to require a man to stake his reputation on a clear statement of the significance of these words of St. Paul. Nevertheless, since the volume was assigned to this particular author because of his presumed competence in this area, his failure to come fully to grips with the problem is to be lamented. It detracts somewhat from the able treatment which has become characteristic of this series of commentaries.

MARTIN H. SCHARLEMANN
ESSENTIAL BOOKS FOR A PASTOR'S LIBRARY: BASIC AND RECOMMENDED BOOKS, selected and annotated by the faculty of Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, Va., 2d ed., Richmond: Union Theological Seminary, 1955. 54 pages. Paper. 75 cents.

Here is an excellent bibliography of theological literature in English. It distinguishes between "essential" and "recommended" books. Its pithy characterizations help to make even a bibliography interesting—and far more valuable than any mere list of titles could be. The value might have been increased, however, if modern available (even though less satisfactory) substitutes had been suggested for some of the old, long-out-of-print classics. For example, R. M. Grant's The Bible in the Church (Macmillan, 1948) would serve as a substitute for F. W. Farrar's History of Interpretation (Macmillan, 1886), suggested on page nine. The value of this bibliography as a guide to the thought of modern Protestantism will be great even for the average pastor or student, who can hardly hope to own the large number of books designated as "essential."

EDGAR M. KRENTZ


In this volume, the fifth of his studies in dogmatics to appear in English, Professor Berkouwer comes to grips with some of today's most controversial theological problems. Karl Barth's offensive against natural theology is balanced with a chapter on Rome's doctrine of natural theology. Thus present and medieval thinking on this subject is put into convenient juxtaposition for comparison and contrast. Barth's position meets its match in the criticism of Emil Brunner and Paul Althaus. Bultmann's conception of revelation is elucidated in a chapter answering the question: "Is the Revelation of Christ Exclusive?" The author's answer to this question is negative. Biblical revelation, he holds, goes beyond that part of Scripture which treats explicitly of Christ. With regard to God's revelation in nature he insists that, in the most profound sense, no true knowledge of the revelation of God in the works of His hands is obtainable without faith in Christ. This volume is a worthy addition to the previous four. No student of systematic theology can afford to ignore it.

L. W. SPITZ


The launching of a new periodical is a big event, especially when the market is already flooded and the new arrival is a theological journal,
highly professional and technical, reducing the popular appeal to nil. Many magazines ought never have been born, and they render their greatest service to humanity by a prompt demise.

Not so Kerygma und Dogma. We hail this new periodical, a quarterly, with great rejoicing. It promises in every way to make a distinguished and valuable contribution to theological literature. The format is handy, the paper excellent, and the type beautifully readable. The high quality of the contents is assured, as a mere listing of the men behind the venture will sufficiently prove. The managing editor is Wilfried Jöst, Neudenettelsau. The editorial committee includes Gerhard Glöge, Jena; Regin Prenter, Aarhus; and Edmund Schlink, Heidelberg. Others responsible for the publication are Peter Brunner, Heidelberg; Oscar Cullmann, Basel; N. A. Dahl, Oslo; R. Josefson, Uppsala; Ernst Kinder, Münster; F. Lau, Leipzig; A. Lauba, Helsinki; W. Maurer, Erlangen; G. Merz, Neudenettelsau; G. von Rad, Heidelberg; K. E. Skydsgaard, Copenhagen; H. Vogel, Berlin; and Gustav Wingren, Lund. It appears that most shades of opinion in the new confessional Lutheranism of Europe will be well represented, which will make for great variety as well as, of course, different levels of quality. As an appetizer consider the rich fare offered in this first number: Schlink, "Weisheit und Torheit" (a discussion of Luther's 1518 Heidelberg Theses); Glöge, "Der theologische Personalismus als dogmatisches Problem"; Prenter, "Das Augsburgische Bekenntnis und die römisch-katholische Messopferlehre"; Brunner, "Charismatische und methodische Schriftauslegung nach Augustins Prolog zu De doctrina christiana"; Jöst, "Vergangenheit und Hoffnung der Neuzeit, kritische Gedanken zu Friedrich Gogartens Buch."

**HERBERT J. A. BOUMAN**

**LOOKING AT LIFE THROUGH THE EYES OF THE SPECTATOR.**


A short story, a sermon, a lecture, poems, and incidental bits of writing complete these selections from the literary remains of the late Dr. John H. Olson. "The Imagination of a Parson," a lecture delivered at Augustana Seminary, is excellent. There are other delightful bits; the poem "A Summer Psalm" (p. 36) is particularly good. The editorial on "Church Unity" (pp. 4, 5) is not sympathetic to the Synodical Conference. The editors of this memorial volume have made selections which make interesting reading.

**CARL S. MEYER**


Ten stories based on the scripts of "This Is the Life," the television broadcast of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, present the fictional Fisher family. The transcriptions into narrative form are sprightly. Readers
of this journal are interested in the theological implications. They center in the witness given by Christians at work in their calling. The explicitly theological defining of the redemptive work of Christ as basic for this witness is apparent in a number of the scripts. From the point of television this explicitness is remarkable. The controversy will long continue whether radio, and for that matter the setting forth of the Christian calling in any guise, is in the domain of explicit evangelism or of pre-evangelism. Very frequently the producers of this program, as this book indicates, have succeeded in both.

RICHARD R. CAEMMERER

BOOKS RECEIVED

(The mention of a book in this list acknowledges its receipt and does not preclude a further discussion of its contents in the "Book Review" section.)

*The Christian Conscience and War.* By the Members of the Commission on Christian Conscience and War. New York: Church Peace Mission, n. d. 40 pages. Paper. 25 cents. At the invitation of the Church Peace Mission (which in turn grew out of the Conference on Church and War held in Detroit, Mich., in 1950), 32 men and women, all of them theologians or religious leaders, prepared this statement. Lutherans on the Commission were C. Franklin Koch, E. Paul Scherer, and Robert F. Weiskotten. The first part of the statement discusses the problem in terms of agreements between pacifists and nonpacifists. Part Two considers the resources of the church in terms of love and of the meaning of history. The third part brings the conclusions of the commission. Stress is the need for a united voice, the possibility that a decisive break with war on the part of the church would be the most practical step that could be taken, and the need for true ecumenicity, which requires that the intervention of the ecumenical church in international conflicts should always be essentially as a reconciler.

*Christianity in the Apostolic Age.* By T. Purves. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1955. xx and 343 pages. Cloth. $3.00. This history of the Apostolic Church on the basis of the New Testament documents was written as a textbook for the use of Bible study groups as well as of college and seminary classes. The original printing, of which the present edition is a photolithoprinted reissue, came out in 1900. The author, who died the following year, was Professor of New Testament Literature and Exegesis in Princeton Theological Seminary and a prolific contributor to theological journals and nineteenth century Bible dictionaries.

Lectures on the Epistle to the Romans. By H. A. Ironside. New York: Loizeaux Brothers, 1954. 176 pages. Cloth. $2.00. This is the tenth printing of notes on lectures delivered by the author to the students of Moody Bible Institute of Chicago and the Evangelical Theological College of Dallas and first published in 1928.

Notes on the Minor Prophets. By H. A. Ironside. New York: Loizeaux Brothers, 1955. 464 pages. Cloth. $3.00. These notes, first published in 1909, are designed to stress the practical application of the Minor Prophets "as giving important teaching for a remnant people in a day of decline, while not neglecting their dispensational bearing." This is the sixth printing.

Teen-Agers Need Parents (Parent Guidance Series No. IV). By A. J. Bueltmann. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1955. 47 pages. Paper. 30 cents. The author, a pastor and himself the father of teen-agers, has designed this booklet for parents "to give them understandings, attitudes, and skills to deal successfully with the challenging job of leading their teen-agers through these important years." It can be used equally well for private or group study. The suggestion of Dr. Oscar E. Feuchr in the preface, that our parishes get it into the hands of parents at the time when their children are being confirmed and are entering high school, is an admirable one.


Expository Outlines on the Whole Bible. Vol. 15: Romans. By Charles Simeon. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1955. viii and 600 pages. Cloth. $3.95. The 110 "outlines" in this volume, averaging close to 6 pages apiece, cover most of the important texts that a preacher is likely to find in the Epistle to the Romans.
