Concordia Theological Monthly

JANUARY • 1957
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.


This is a practical manual, designed above all to help youth leaders develop the worship life of their group. Probably all counselors admit the importance of the worship of God in a Christian organization; but many do not realize the tremendous joy and unity it can give to a group, the sense of purpose and brotherhood it fosters. The volume opens up these additional values of a developed society worship life.

This is experience speaking. The Rev. Alfred P. Klausler knows the teen-ager—his editing of The Walther League Messenger proves his knowledge is more current than a memory of his own teens. His work on the Walther Leage staff, and with the Lutheran Service Volunteer schools and Youth Workers' conferences sponsored by the Board of Young People's Work of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, makes this distillation of his observations important—and very practical. Youth counselors, Walther League societies, pastors, Bible class leaders, order it. The Walther League and Concordia Publishing House have made much available here at a small cost.

Worship is not performed by involuntary muscles built into a man at birth. Even after the new birth Christians must be taught how to worship. One of the goals of a parish is to train members to worship together. It cannot be done simply by memorizing forms. This volume will help you put meaning, joy, and experience into the Sunday worship of your young members by showing you a way of helping them develop a vital worship program in their society life. It gives many and varied suggestions for worship at meetings, at rallies and conventions, for outdoor worship and for church-year occasions. To worship in the Communion, in matins and vespers, is not the objective here, but this book is full of helps in developing the worship experience that makes our parish services glorious worship opportunities.

GEORGE W. HOYER


Here is positive inspiration and motivation plus concrete guidance for action in the modern church program. One thought-provoking chapter after another offers material for study and discussion in societies and
classes. How Christians as God's priests are to function in the body of the church receives proper and quite complete definition.

Pastors and church leaders who long for some spiritual tonic which will strengthen the "weak hands and feeble knees" will be richly rewarded by their study of the treasures within the covers of these books. Surely they will be enthusiastic about sharing this treasure to give our laymen and women a new view of their position in the Kingdom. The author has set forth the ministry of the priesthood in clear and functional terms.

*The Pastor's Handbook and Idea Kit* offers stewardship thoughts, pastoral letters on Holy Communion and Holy Baptism, invitations to attend religious information courses, and a brief section on the "Christian Treasure-Chest Plan."

**HARRY G. COINER**


It may be truly said, "We know not what we should pray for as we ought." Here is a useful, Christ-centered book of prayers by 62 authors intended chiefly for use by the average church member who is called upon to lead in prayer. The prayers are appropriate for as many as 32 different types of parish meetings, with as many as eight suggested prayers for a single occasion.

These are vertical prayers which lean heavily and properly on the mercy and power of God. The prayers thank, petition, and praise our gracious God, to whom we come through Jesus Christ, our Lord. No words are wasted. Strong verbs of petition are used constantly. "Keep us, make us, enable us, teach us, pour out upon us, guide us, strengthen us," are samples. So well written and solidly packed are these prayers that one senses immediately that they should be read slowly and devotionally. With this splendid aid, pastors should certainly encourage the leaders of the various organizations within the congregation to lead in prayer. The use of this book should certainly do much to teach our people how to pray.

**HARRY G. COINER**

*PULPIT UNDER THE SKY: A LIFE OF HANS NIELSEN HAUGE.*


The author believes that "Hauge is neither known nor understood in a degree even remotely commensurate with his true historical stature" (p. xi). For a better understanding of this Christian lay leader in Norway this biography is presented. Hauge lived between 1771 and 1824; his greatest period of activity as a revivalist came between 1799 and 1804, the time of the Second Great Awakening in America. The Christian lay movement which he furthered was one of the important factors in stemming the tide of Rationalism in Norway. Haugeanism influenced Norway's culture, politics, and economic life.
During his lifetime Hauge wrote thirty-three books. He combined his writing with his itinerant preaching until he was imprisoned. The question of Hauge's imprisonment brings the author to the conclusion that it was the fact that Hauge was "a Christian personality of unusual stature" (p. 121) that made the authorities fear his activities.

Haugeanism stresses the need for conversion, discipleship or "the living faith," sanctification or personal conduct, community betterment, watchfulness, and evangelism. Haugeanism confuses justification and sanctification. The author states: "The primary omission was the lack of clarity in teaching justification by faith without the works of the law" (p. 178). Hauge's views on the Sacrament of the Altar were "very unclear" (p. 180). Brorson and Kingo, the great hymn writers of Norway, Pontoppidan, and perhaps the Moravian Brethren, influenced Hauge. Haugeanism has its roots in German Pietism. Gisle Johnson led the revival in the early 1850's. The author puts the movement into its historical context and appraises its theology. In the appendix are two excerpts from Hauge's writings.

The author has written an account that should become a standard biography of this important figure in Scandinavian Lutheranism. Augsburg Publishing House is to be commended for an excellent example of the publisher's art.

CARL S. MEYER


This workbook and manual are the second pair in a new series of books for the teaching of religion in Lutheran elementary schools. They provide good resource materials also for vacation Bible schools, Saturday schools, confirmation classes, and in some instances post-confirmation classes. Ten units under one central theme offer a complete year's course in religion. The course skillfully integrates memory work and the source materials contained in the Bible, Catechism, and hymnal, and stimulates the use of teaching procedures based on the laws of learning — especially induction and discussion — for the attainment of clearly defined unit objectives. These books are designed not merely to inform the intellect but also to give training in functional Christianity.

Excellent! Indispensable! Pastors and teachers unfamiliar with unit teaching will do well to consider the nature and advantages of the unit method, as described in the introduction to the teacher's manual.

A. G. MERKENS


Present-day parent delinquency and ignorance challenge the church to give increasing attention to Christian parent education to enable them to rear their children in accordance with the Christian principles of child
training. Educational research has emphasized particularly in recent years the importance of child training in the preschool years which affect the character formation of children so decisively and permanently. "The way in which a child's fears, his efforts to get attention, his successes and failures, his tantrums, his daily routine are dealt with, make a great difference in the kind of person he becomes." In offering this fifth book in the Parent Guidance Series under the editorship of Oscar E. Feucht, the Board for Parish Education of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is rendering valuable and timely service to parents and church leaders. The book contains materials for eight topic discussions, discussion questions, helpful bibliographies, and suggestions for use in group meetings. The subject of the book merits its study and discussion in every congregation.

A. G. MERKENS


Most of the articles in this booklet were written by missionaries on the field. The information is intended as source material to arouse interest in the foreign mission work of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in India, the Philippines, New Guinea, Japan, Hong Kong, and Taiwan (Formosa). Well illustrated, with maps and pictures, the booklet gives a general overview of the work in those areas.

J. P. KREITZMANN


The publisher's note states that teen-agers helped with these 75 prayers dealing with teen-age needs. That should assure the relevance of this volume to the concerns of youth as the list of its twenty-eight authors should guarantee its helpfulness.

There are prayers for special days and needs, prayers on the Commandments and on the petitions of the Lord's Prayer, table prayers and prayers for days of the week. Among these are included Luther's morning and evening prayers, memorable and terse by contrast. The contrast is not completely pertinent, of course, since this volume seeks "to stimulate Christian youth in their conversation with God." GEORGE W. HOYER


This is the story—sometimes weird, sometimes profoundly moving—of the restoration of religious life-in-community to the Anglican Communion, from Nicholas Ferrar's community at Little Gidding in the
seventeenth century to the foundation of the Community of the Servants of the Will of God at Crawley Down, Sussex, in 1953. The formidably prolific author — this is his twenty-third work — is, rather astonishingly, a Roman Catholic, but he has managed to write with a commendable freedom from both bias and prejudice; an Anglican possessed of any degree of sympathy with his subject matter could hardly have done better, and the only really prominent trace of the author's denomination is the conscientious correlation of the Anglican foundations with Roman Catholic religious communities in the respective neighborhoods. Lutherans will read the book with great interest. They will, of course, remember the approval which the Lutheran Symbols bestow on St. Anthony of Egypt, St. Bernard of Clairvaux, St. Dominic of the Order of Preachers, St. Francis of Assisi, and other holy fathers for having chosen the religious life in order to be able better to study the Sacred Scriptures and for other pious and useful ends (Apology, IV, 211; XXVII, 21). They will be mindful of the Apology's commendation of virginity as a more excellent gift than matrimony (XXIII, 38). They will recall that even the Smalcald Articles can contemplate a restoration of the monasteries and canonries to their original useful purpose (Part Two, III, 1). They will remember that this was not mere theory in the early post-Reformation period, but that entire religious foundations — the male Cistercians at Loccum, their female counterparts at Waterleer, and the Benedictine nuns at Lune, for instance — could and did preserve their community character under the Reformation. Hence they will have little sympathy with the Protestant condemnation of monasticism per se that characterized the Anglican Reformation. At the same time they are likely to regard as the least fortunate developments in the new Anglican monasteries precisely those features which Anson hails with greatest gratification, such as the devotion to the Reserved Sacrament and the stress on the contemplative rather than the active life. They will note that Lutheran influence played an almost imperceptible role in the revival of Anglican monasticism; the foundress of the Deaconess Community of St. Andrew had spent some time at Kaiserswerth (p. 393) and the priest-founder of the first female order in the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States, the Sisterhood of the Holy Communion (1852), had been reared in the Lutheran Church (p. 554). Anson has brought together a quantity of detail accurate and painstakingly verified that is hardly less than fantastic. Slips are few, as far as this reviewer could discover. Note 1 on p. 397 gives the title of Graham Greene's Journey without Maps incorrectly as Journey without Hope. Again, Waukesha, Wis., can hardly be said to be "on the shore(s) of Lake Michigan" (pp. xiii, 534), unless one were prepared to describe (say) East Grinstead in Sussex as being on the shores of the English Channel, the airline distance to the water being about the same in each case. One may complain that the account frequently has the uncritical flavor of the parish chronicles that one finds in anniversary booklets, but often the
only sources available to Anson were documents of just this kind. Read through, the parallel histories of many of the communities that began at about the same time impart a quality of repetitiousness, but here again the great value of this book lies in the fact that it is an encyclopedic directory rather than a closely-knit historical essay. The comprehensive "List of Religious Communities and Kindred Bodies of the Anglican Communion in Order of Foundation" from 1842 to 1953 in the appendix provides a basis for some interesting statistics: Of 31 male communities in the British Isles 5 are extinct and 15 have joined the Latin Church; of 82 female orders in the British Isles 21 are extinct; of 20 male orders in the United States and Canada 6 are extinct, and 3 have joined the Latin Church; of 37 American and Canadian female communities 17 are extinct, and two have joined the Latin Church; of 27 orders of both sexes elsewhere in the Anglican Communion 6 are extinct, and one has joined the Latin Church. The bibliography (12 pages) and the indices (31 pages) are excellent. To the author's interest and nice taste in church architecture readers owe 16 beautiful full-page illustrations and many informative comments in the text. All in all, this is by far the best book available on a provocative subject. ARTHUR CARL PIEPKORN


With modern methods of color reproduction, prints of medieval art are now commonplace. It is not unusual to find a spread of medieval paintings even in such popular magazines as Life and Time. Often the symbols found in this art are mysteries to the uninitiated. What are we to make of a venerable bishop pictured with a beehive, an abbess with a mouse, or a Franciscan monk preaching to fishes? This dictionary of the church's saints and their symbols, or "attributes," by Helen Roeder will usually give us the answer.

It is alphabetically arranged with such entries as "Banner," "Chain," "Fire," "Ship," etc. The three indices at the end of the volume are very helpful. The first is an index of saints from "Abbo" to "Zosimus"; the second a list of patronages from "Actors" to "Undertakers," and "Whistle-makers"; the third a list of localities from "Aachen" to "Zurich." A book such as this obviously cannot be complete because the saints are "ten thousand times ten thousand," but it is probably the most complete such compilation ever made. It is a good parallel reference work to something like George Ferguson's recently published Signs and Symbols in Christian Art.

Saints and Their Attributes can serve as a guide to medieval art for scholars, artists, travelers, hobbyists, and others. However, its usefulness is not limited to the study of art. Through its entries on the saints it also provides information on the life, history, theology, and worship of the Christian Church in the past. HAROLD W. SCHEIBERT

This is the kind of book that English scholars do so well. The bulk of the volume is a scholarly and copiously annotated translation of Origen's profoundly devout Πεζευχήσ, which Jay dates after 231 and (following Bigg) about 236. Chapters I—XVII are a careful systematic inquiry into the subject matter, the Biblical nomenclature, the necessity, the utility, the praxis, and the problematic of prayer. Chapters XVIII—XXX contain one of the earliest expositions of the Our Father to come down to us. Chapters XXXI—XXXIV take up such questions as disposition, posture, place, orientation, and the proper sequence of the parts of prayer. Jay puts the whole discourse in its proper setting by furnishing first an extensive history of prayer in the early church from the days of the New Testament to St. Clement of Alexandria, and then a special introduction to Origen—his life, his works, his theology, and his doctrine of prayer. Scattered through the book are six appendixes on the hours of prayer, posture at prayer, prayer and the saints, the date of Πεζευχήσ, manuscripts and editions of the treatise, and the meaning of ἐποικίσμος. The three indices are notably useful and complete. Jay evades none of the many problems that both Πεζευχήσ and the history of prayer in the early church present. Not only the specialist in patristics or systematics, but the parish parson as well, will take enlightenment from, and delight in, Jay's instructive volume.

ARTHUR CARL PIEPKORN


The secession of the now retired Drew University professor of systematic theology from the ranks of the outspoken liberals to an explicitly evangelical position in the thirties was an epochal development in the history of American Protestant thought. In the chapters of this book, delivered two decades later as lectures at Southwestern University, Georgetown, Tex., he offers his mature reflections on the answer to the question: "What have historical, literary and other forms of modern Biblical criticism done for the common belief that the Bible gives to men the veritable Word of God?" (Page 9.)

The dualism which has evoked the charge that Lewis is a "Zoroastrian" is barely hinted at in this volume, but the book's energetic anticlericalism, antiritualism, antitraditionalism, antisacramentalism, and antiecclesiasticism almost justify the conclusion that in his old age Lewis has become an Anabaptist.

The Biblical Faith and Christian Freedom abounds in brilliant analyses, penetrating insights, memorable (and quotable) aphorisms. It is a provocative and stimulating self-revelation of what makes a distinguished contemporary theologian tick. It is also, alas, unindexed.

ARTHUR CARL PIEPKORN
BOOKS RECEIVED

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


