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 Christ, the Cross, and Your Modern Life" is the subtitle of this volume. It is an accurate summary. Written in the modern idiom, dealing with basic issues of life, the well-known Lutheran Hour speaker in Christocentric fashion sets forth the message of the Gospel and its meaning. He deals with loneliness and love, success and anxiety, for instance, and shows how the life and death and resurrection of the Crucified One apply. His illustrations are apt, well told, modern but not ephemeral, many of them retelling Bible happenings. Many of his sentences are almost aphoristic. In the 14 chapters or sermons of this work some of the major concerns of modern man are dealt with in terms of the age-old but ageless message of the Cross.

CARL S. MEYER


The purpose of this 13-lesson course is to make those who are married happily married; to increase the happiness of those already married; and to bring together again those who are growing apart. The contents are, however, valid also for those who are preparing for marriage and for single adults who wish to understand better their place in a predominantly married society. Topics useful for couple groups will be found here too.

Teachers and members of Bible classes will appreciate the manner in which this course meets one of the major needs of our times by applying Holy Scripture to these fundamental and intimate relationships of life.

HARRY G. COINER


Sometimes sketchy and again detailed, this interesting volume is the result of a wide-awake naturalist's observations during his wanderings in the Holy Land from south to north and back again over a nine-month
period. As he goes along he discusses the lay of the land, the climate, the plants and animals, the fish and insects, the customs of the villagers in the hills and the nomads of the desert, all with the vividness and interest of the returned traveler telling his story to the folks back home. The book is written for the nonscientist rather than the expert naturalist, yet one expects that the trained scientist, too, will read it with considerable interest and profit.

ARTHUR KLINCK


This book is designed to "acquaint the casual reader with the meaning of the basic concepts germane to Judaism in its religious, historic, and cultural aspects," and to introduce him to the philosophers and theologians who have played significant roles in the history of Judaism. The list of items covered displays amazing breadth, but significant omissions include Chayyug, who first sponsored the triliteral law, and Saul of Tarsus. Jesus of Nazareth, the greatest Jew of all, is dismissed with 22 lines, whereas Saadia, an ancient grammarian, receives 50. About 30 full-page plates adorn this quick reference book.

FREDERICK W. DANKER


In these two volumes the student will find some of the choicest discussions on some of the most significant New Testament topics. For more than 20 years Kittel's Theologisches Wörterbuch zum Neuen Testament has been the enjoyment of those who could read its technical German. Now some of its wealth can be shared by those who have looked wistfully at its locked treasure.

The selection of articles could not have been more judiciously made. Some of the most prominent Biblical scholars are represented in these pages, and the translating and editing is done in a fashion worthy of the material. The translators have attempted to recreate Kittel with a high degree of fidelity.

Their condensation of some of the verbose areas of the original is usually done without impairment of sense or loss of material content. At times, however, especially in the translation of Kittel's notes, they omit philological amplifications or references, which in the original contribute to greater clarity (cp., e.g., TWNT I, 270, note 8 with the discussion on "Sin," p. 6). The bibliographical material is not always so cogently placed as in the original, and we hope that translocation of the Hebrew will be
discontinued in subsequent volumes. On the other hand the indexes of words and references following each article supply a distinct deficiency in the German. Nearly six huge volumes of the German Kittel have thus far appeared. These two composite English volumes represent only a small percentage of the total output. It is a beginning for which many will be grateful.

A broad theological range is here represented, but these two books may easily be your best book investment in 1959.

FREDERICK W. DANKER


Peter is the first pope listed; Pius XII completes the listings. The introduction deals with "The College of Cardinals and the Papal Election." Some notices are very brief, e.g., "Sixtus I, 115? to 125? Sixtus is also known as Xystus: nothing more is known of him" (p. 7). He's just a name on a list. Some of the longer biographies extend over four pages. This work will be useful to anyone who wants brief accounts of the popes in one handy volume. The viewpoint of the encyclopedia can be gotten from the concluding sentence (p. 137) in the biography of Alexander VI: "Alexander has again and again been cited as an argument against the papacy as an institution, but always on the wrong premises, for a papacy which could withstand a Borgia must be possessed of, and actuated by, higher forces than even this Pope was able to affect." CARL S. MEYER


Biographies of 753 authors, mainly of the Western world, from classical antiquity to the present time, with bibliographical notes, are found in this reference work. With each author is a list of his principal works and of translations (if made into English) of his works. This reviewer obviously has not read every entry. Those which he has read have impressed him with their reliability and clearness. It is difficult to understand why Martin Luther and John Calvin are not included; John Henry Newman is; Pierre Abélard is the first entry. This cyclopedia should prove highly useful in schools, at editors' elbows, in pastors' studies.

CARL S. MEYER


Alongside the growing number of specialists today, Chase is calling for all educated people to be "generalists"—to have a core understanding of all of the disciplines of the mind. In this primer of world culture he
surveys the universe from the viewpoint of astronomy, anthropology, history, economics, and religion. Chase writes from a liberal frame of reference. The theologically oriented person will disagree not so much with given statements as with the essentially earth-bound frame from which Mr. Chase views all of life. One wishes that before he had written his chapter on religion he would have read as broadly in theology as he apparently had in the sciences and humanities. As with many otherwise broadly educated people, he cannot separate the concept of "religion" from that of "morality" and ethics.

**DAVID S. SCHULLER**


With two exceptions these sermons are on texts from the Gospels (a previous volume with the same title was published in 1956) according to the Swedish Selections, which are the officially adopted series of the Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church. The contributors are pastors of this church. They reveal a variety of method—meditative, analytical, doctrinal, expository, indirect as far as the text is concerned, topical. Application to the hearer would doubtless be more apparent, in many instances, if the reader could have been worshiping in the preacher’s parish. This is good pastoral preaching, and the Cross is seldom submerged. Each reader will, according to his taste and need, find certain units especially moving.

**RICHARD R. CAEMMERER**


"Today Gibbon is read not only as an evocation of the past but as a history of the present." So Oliver states in his short but facile biography of the 18th-century English historian. Oliver has given us more than a biography, but the biographical predominates. To him Gibbon is more deist than skeptic, more concerned about government than religion, more pro-Roman than anti-Christian. Serene, calm, cold, more unified in the first three books of history with their theme about Rome than in the last three, which is the first full account of the Byzantine Empire in English, Gibbon remained always the doubter of motives and the master of an English style that has made his work endure.

The Harper Torchbook tells the story of Rome from the coming of Genseric the Vandal to the failure of Justinian to restore Rome’s might. It is a reprint of Bury’s edition, with the references to the 1909 edition conveniently given.

**CARL S. MEYER**

The first edition of Sohm's Kirchengeschichte im Grundriss appeared in 1887; the first English translation, in 1895. Sohm writes as a German Lutheran of the 19th century, presenting church history as part of general history, conditioned by his legal training. His judgments are worth noting, e.g. (p. 239): "But the hope of Protestantism lies, not in Union, not in organization, but in the gospel of justification by faith alone." His conclusion sentence reads (p. 254): "But one thing is certain: It is not our culture that will save us, but the Gospel alone." Even though this is a collection of essays, not a comprehensive outline of the history of the Christian Church—or because it is a series of essays—this paperback from the Beacon Press is highly welcome. CARL S. MEYER


This monograph compares the style of Hellenistic-Jewish homiletics with the style of the Stoic-Cynic diatribe. Since no synagog sermon has come down to us complete, the task is difficult. Thyen's foremost source is Philo's allegorical commentary on Genesis. He supplements this with other documents, some of which are early Christian (James, Didache, I Clement, etc.)

The synagog sermon is not a diatribe in form (p. 62). It uses the parenetic elements that are familiar from the diatribe, but in a unique way. Frequent use of the first person plural, the use of eschatology as a motivating force, the prevalence of Haustafeln, and the scheme of the two ways show distinctive elements among those that the diatribe shares with the synagog.

Certain other elements (greater frequency of imperatives) urge that one take the influence of the Septuagint, especially of the prophets, more seriously (cf. A. Wifstrand in Studia theologica, I, 170—182). Still the book has much of value, especially on the style of Philo. It has many misprints, is unindexed, but has an impressive bibliography.

EDGAR KRENTZ


These two publications are additions to current Bible study literature. The first is a miniature Christian classic of the Moody Colportage
Library. It supplies the kind of simple but helpful information which young people and many adults seek concerning the origin, reproduction, transmission, and general content of Bible books. It also provides suggestions on ways and means of reading or studying the Bible. Reflecting conservative theology, the little book can be recommended for use in the reading libraries and book corners of congregations.

The second is a Bible study guide for adults which can be used with or without the reference text on which it is based, namely, The Witnessing Community, by the same author. In 12 topic outlines which require Bible overview from Genesis to Revelation, this booklet leads the student to search out the Bible message for us today, sets forth Christ as the Lord of world history as well as of the church, and challenges Christians to be messengers of reconciliation in a world of broken relationships, strife, and war. Study group leaders will appreciate the stimulation provided by the selected content and inductive method of this booklet.

A. G. MERKENS


Congregational strategy must place major emphasis on the home as the primary educational agency and as the organizing center of Christian parish education. A home characterized by a negative atmosphere, spirit, and life can only neutralize and nullify the efforts and dollars expended upon church schools.

This new study book in the Parent Guidance Series serves a real need. Its eight chapters of topic materials are of excellent content, well organized to stimulate interest and discussion, and they stress parental responsibility and co-operation with the educational agencies of the church. It can be recommended without qualification for personal reading, for use in parent classes or other group meetings, and in preparation for making personal calls upon children and parents. Every church library should contain a copy.

ALBERT G. MERKENS


In 1909 a series of twelve booklets entitled The Fundamentals began to appear under the auspices of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles, Inc. The publication of the series was made possible by the generous gifts of Lyman and Milton Steward. More than three million copies of the booklets were distributed gratis to thousands of grateful recipients. The purpose of The Fundamentals, to which some of the best Bible scholars of that time dedicated their scholarship, was to curb the inroads of reli-
gious liberalism. The Bible Institute of Los Angeles, Inc., has republished The Fundamentals in a revised and up-to-date edition in a set of two volumes as a golden jubilee project. In this task Feinberg is being ably assisted by James H. Christian, Arnold D. Ehler, Glenn O'Neal, and Gerald B. Stanton.

L. W. SPITZ


Holy Writ is the golden key which God Himself gives us for unlocking the main door of church history, Chambon asserts, in which, as in a bank, the separate vaults must be opened with special keys. The master key is in the shape of a cross, for only Golgotha can identify and illumine the profoundest problems of church history. Thus, e.g., the church loses its dimensions when it is ready to compromise with the world. Again, the imponderables of church history must be faced honestly, hidden as they are in God, giving sorrow and joy.

A dozen lines cannot summarize the 13 chapters of an arresting presentation of ecclesiastical historiography. Chambon's presentation deserves serious study.

CARL S. MEYER

THE ILLUMINATED BOOK: ITS HISTORY AND PRODUCTION.


No review can do justice to this book. As you turn its pages, you cannot but be impressed by the combination of scholarship, typography, and the binder's art. On high grade paper, in type both large and legible, with literally hundreds of magnificent monochrome and six polychrome illustrations, the beauty of the book will constantly amaze you. No matter how highly it is praised, it deserves it.

Diringer gives a history of the illuminated book from earliest times down to the Renaissance. One is struck by his massive learning, his wide knowledge of manuscripts gained both by personal inspection and a mastery of the modern literature. All of the great medieval books pass before you, the Book of Kells, the Lindesfarne Gospels, the Golden Gospel of Echternach, the Utrecht Psalter, the Winchester Bible, and a host of lesser treasures. The liberal illustrations will captivate a reader of any age. If, as E. E. Sikes said, a book, to be moderately successful, must be a labor of love, then this volume is testimony to an unending love affair between Diringer and illuminated manuscripts. May it produce more such children.

EDGAR KRENTZ


On the rather reliable assumption that the minister's most formidable antagonists may not be in the outer world but within himself, the author,
a parish pastor himself, sketches in vivid and valid manner the possible personality problems which afflict the pastor and limit his work.

The six personality problems discussed—resentment, immaturity, inferiority, doubt, guilt, and conceit—are those which are most likely to plague the minister. The description of these problems is sharp and real. The insight given is illuminating. Though not written for the specialist in psychology, the book reveals that the author is well grounded in the techniques of psychology and knows how to present them in direct and practical fashion.

To the problems revealed in each chapter the author applies remedial techniques. At this point the book becomes weak. The solution comes in almost every instance by what the minister does himself through meditation, p. 19; by permitting the mind of Christ to dwell in him, p. 62; in deciding to live the transparent, sharing life, p. 107; by cultivating the grace of gratitude, p. 127, etc.

The "do-it-yourself" flavor is unfortunate. However, one soon realizes that the author writes out of wide experience and that he is sympathetic even when most searching. The reader will see himself often and be helped.

Harry G. Coiner


This book presents the principles one must follow to build a balanced, professional theological library. Smith discusses such topics as book selection, library planning, and library organization. Anyone needing help will find this a useful book to read, but probably not to own. Theological students ought to read it early in their seminary training. It would save a lot of misspent money.

Edgar Krentz


Twenty important areas of the pastor's work in 90 pages are covered in this work. If one could fault the author only on what he did not say, all would be well. Unfortunately, some statements are so brief and general that they are both misleading and trite. The best description this reviewer can give is that it is a condensed version of pastoral theology, some of which will have validity and acceptance only in certain denominations.

Harry G. Coiner


Allegorical interpretation is regarded by most moderns as an embarrassing aberration of the early church. Most Lutherans point with pride to Luther's insistence on grammatical exegesis as one of the foundation stones of his work. As a result we dismiss patristic exegesis as vague
and valueless allegory by which men manipulated Scripture to support their own preconceived notions.

R. M. Grant of the University of Chicago presents a history of allegory from its Greek beginnings to Origen's *De principiis* and *Commentary on John*. Interesting and informative (by no means exhaustive), this slim volume gives the background of early exegesis, at least helping us to sympathize with Clement and Origen, at most to applaud their work.

The first chapter gives the classical background, the conflict between poetic and philosophic truth. Stoicism perfected allegory as an attempt to harmonize the two. Grant made surprisingly little use of Latin sources (for example, Horace, *Ep. I.2*) in his discussion. The second chapter discusses the exegesis of Hellenistic Judaism. Allegory, according to Grant, arose from their severe doctrine of verbal inspiration. Philo differed in method not at all from Stoicism. One wonders whether the *pesher* method of interpretation as practiced by the Qumran covenanters might not also be a Philonic source.

The remainder of the book discusses the exegesis of the Old Testament in the New by second-century Christianity, both orthodox and heterodox, and by Alexandrian Christianity. Ultimately it is the theological presuppositions of Paul and the author of Hebrews that distinguishes their method of interpretation from that of Philo. Marcion and Gnosticism forced the orthodox fathers to the use of allegory and inspiration in order to combat heretical belief. The method was then developed by Clement and Origen of Alexandria. Origen's study of Greek grammar and rhetoric sharpened his use of the method.

Grant gives us an outline of allegory that is extremely useful. His last chapter compares the solutions of the present day to those of Marcion and allegory. Neither classical Liberal thought nor the *sensus plenior* of current Roman Catholic thought is any better as a solution. Grant tentatively suggests that myth is the only satisfactory answer to the problem of faith and history.

Four appendixes, a bibliography, and indexes complete the book. The appendix on Greek exegetical terminology is worth the price of the book. The bibliography is generally good, though some titles are absent, e.g., H. J. Mette's works on Crates. The compact size probably led to some of the oversimplifications, e.g., the description of Strabo's thoughts on p. 95. Grant's book fills a gap in our literature. That it is, in general, a good book makes it even more welcome.

EDGAR KRENTZ


In this, the 24th study in Biblical theology, Jeremias tackles the problem suggested by apparently conflicting elements in the Gospel accounts concerning Jesus' approach to the Gentiles. On the one hand Jesus appears
to discourage mission activity. On the other hand Jesus eliminates any idea of Jewish eschatological vengeance over the Gentiles; He promises the Gentiles a share in salvation, and His redemptive activity and lordship include the Gentiles. Matt. 8:11 f. is used to secure the necessary leverage with which Jeremias endeavors to solve the problem. Jesus looks forward to the eschatological consummation in terms of Old Testament prophecy which envisaged a decisive call to the Gentiles to come to Mount Zion at the time of the last Judgment. The church's current missionary task finds itself stimulated by the eschatological hope. Indeed, her mission strategy is "eschatology in process of realization," p. 75.

Jeremias relies heavily on literary criticism and brings his competence in Aramaic into effective play. As always, his exegesis is challenging and illuminating, as in the discussion of Luke 4:16 ff., pp. 44 f., and he meets the opposition to his thesis by Mark 14:9 (= Matt. 26:13) with characteristic facility. Though the reliance he places on Rev. 14:6 f., with its doctrine of the eschatological angelic proclamation to the nations, as an interpretive key to Mark 14:9 is perhaps the most vulnerable area in his presentation, it is not easy to break through the exegetical entrenchment. This little work is a worthy installment in a most helpful series.

FREDERICK W. DANKER

A COMMENTARY ON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. LUKE.

Compared with C. K. Barrett's commentary on Romans in the same series (Harper's New Testament Commentaries), Leaney's Luke appears at considerable disadvantage. Barrett had more than 270 pages at his disposal for commentary on a text that takes up 34 pages in Nestle, whereas Leaney must use less space, making due allowance for introductory matters, to treat 91 pages of Greek text, and this in the face of a steadily developing recognition of the profound theological character of Luke's Gospel, accented by Leaney's own special chapter on the subject in his Introduction, pp. 34—37. This commentary easily deserved two volumes in the format undertaken. Editorial pressure is therefore partially responsible for a somewhat spotty exegetical performance in which helpful and illuminating discussions are intermingled with commentary of questionable value. Thus the discussion on the word poor in Luke 6:20 is a model of compressed brevity. Much Biblical resource material is made available. The theological significance of the statement "We are going up to Jerusalem" (Luke 18:31) is succinctly captured.

Many more felicities of this nature could be cited. On the other hand the tight literary and theological structure of the three narratives in 5:1-26 programming Jesus' mission is not appraised and little attempt appears to have been made to understand Luke in such a passage as 7:36-50.
A serious psychological objection seems to emerge from Leaney's allegation that Luke might have intruded a bit of "free writing" into his historical framework, as in the introduction of a trial before Herod, ch. 23 (p. 280). If, as Leaney is at pains to point out, Luke aims to secure a fair hearing of the Christian case before Roman officials, manufacture of favorable data would appear not only tactless but ill advised, especially since Jewish detractors would be quick to discredit the entire work in the face of such palpable literary inventions. The introductory chapters of this commentary are filled with much valuable and penetrating critical discussion, but on the whole Luke's Gospel deserves more careful and sympathetic treatment than it has received in this volume.

FREDERICK W. DANKER


Lollardy continued into the mid-Tudor period, A. G. Dickens finds on the basis of research largely in primary, unpublished documents; in York the Marian reaction was not especially severe. Here is an example of basic research which recommends itself.

CARL S. MEYER


This book is an introduction on a popular level to the books of Sacred Scripture. It is abreast of recent trends in scholarship, yet at times its tone is quite conservative. The book will promote much discussion in Bible classes.

FREDERICK W. DANKER


A Minneapolis pastor publishes a volume of parish sermons of special interest to his congregation and staff. The addresses show assiduous care in illustration. A number are chosen for the special days of the year. This reviewer was edified by the constant effort at concreteness. He was struck by a somewhat speculative quality to the doctrine of "freedom to go wrong" (p. 104) — but rejoiced to find a preacher who drew a lesson from the Elder Brother and not just the Prodigal.

RICHARD R. CAEMMERER


Many discoveries relating to grammatical and lexicographical minutiae have been made since B. F. Westcott first issued this commentary in 1880,
but even after seven decades it remains a source of spiritual refreshment. Philological observations must constantly be checked against more recent treatments such as those of Dodd and Barrett, but there is a theological appreciation expressed here which has no duplication and which time will not easily erode. This reissue, done with integrity, is at once a tribute and a service.

FREDERICK W. DANKER


We welcome the reprint of this brochure, which clarified the statute dealing with the position of the early Elizabethan bishops toward the state.

CARL S. MEYER


In 12 chapters born of sermons preached in First Methodist Church of Fort Worth, Tex., the author seeks to apply to men of the present day lessons from the transformation of the twelve disciples, plus Paul, through their fellowship with Christ. The style is vigorous, the application impressive, while the exegetical and theological foundation is at times dubious and weak. Seldom is the reader exposed to the full Gospel of the Kingdom. To the extent that preachers presuppose the Gospel instead of preaching it, their efforts fail to transmit the transforming power of Christ. It would be interesting to see how a Gospel preacher, as distinct from a Gospel presupposer, would utilize the character-analyses and timely applications found in this book.

VICTOR BARTLING


This paperback reprint of a 1928 publication carries with it the memory of America's era of spiritual frosting, when the backwash of 19th-century German theological enlightenment began to hit in earnest. Here is the rationalism of Paulus. Here walks the shade of Ritschl. If the publishers wished to rescue from obscurity a specimen of beautiful religious writing, they are to be commended on the choice. If their aim was to reproduce a work that can contribute something to the theological understanding of their readers, they have shot wide of the mark. A work of this nature can only confuse the public for which it is intended.

FREDERICK W. DANKER


The Southern Baptist Convention's major board finds a sympathetic
historian in its onetime executive secretary. Baptists and those directly
influenced by the activities of this board will gain a greater appreciation
of the place of home missions in this denomination by the reading of
this book.

CARL S. MEYER

JOHN CALVIN: THE MAN AND HIS ETHICS. By Georgia Harkness.
Paper. $1.50.

Part III of this compact analysis of Calvin's moral ideas and their appli-
cation deals especially with social ethics. This section, about half of the
book, makes it eminently worthwhile that this work, first issued in 1931,
has been republished in this edition. Based on painstaking research in
Calvin's opera, it leads the student into a spadework analysis of Calvin's
ethics.

CARL S. MEYER

TEXTKRITIK. By Paul Maas. 3. Verbesserte und Vermehrte Auflage.
2.30 DM.

This little booklet, replete with diagrams, is a model of compressed
pedagogical clarity. It might have been entitled "The Art of Making or
Reading a Critical Apparatus." The fact that the illustrations employed
are drawn from the classics in no way impairs the usefulness of this
valuable interpreter's aid for theological students. This third and revised
edition will likely entrench itself as a basic textbook in first-year herme-
neutics.

FREDERICK W. DANKER

CONCORDANCE OF THE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS IN SEVEN COLORS.
By Xavier Leon-Dufour, S. J. Desclée & Co., Paris-Tournai-Rome-
New York, 1956. 21 pages. $2.00.

This is not really a book; rather it is a set of charts ingeniously devised
to set the facts of the synoptic gospels in clear perspective with the aid
of contrasting colors. A glance reveals what the synoptic situation is with
respect to content and context of a given verse or group of verses. The
chart is helpful in alerting the sermonizer to distinctive features and
theological slants rarely found in the commentaries.

FREDERICK W. DANKER

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.)

Paper. $2.25.

We Prepare and Preach: The Practice of Sermon Construction and Del-
190 pages. Cloth. $3.25.


