The Posture of the Interpreter
MARTIN H. FRANZMANN

The Theological Implications of Confirmation
ARTHUR C. REPP

Prolegomena According to Karl Barth
ROBERT D. PREUS

Homiletics

Theological Observer

Book Review

VOL. XXXI March 1960 No. 3

Explaining the background of this book, the author mentions the change of emphasis in recent years in Biblical studies. He sees a new attitude which seeks to transcend the earlier work of Biblical criticism by constructive theological exposition. While recognizing the human element in the Bible, the present emphasis, he believes, is on the significance of the Bible as the living and abiding Word of God. But he regards the Bible as authoritative merely inasmuch as it is the primary witness to the events related in it. Nearly three pages of acknowledgments to publishers and others for permission to use extracts from copyright publications point up the significance of this volume as a review of contemporary thought on the nature and authority of the Bible.

L. W. SPITZ


These two volumes are part of a three-volume anthology of Hans Lietzmann’s theological writings, edited by Kurt Aland. Lietzmann emphasized the importance of recovering as fully and accurately as possible the historical matrix in which the literature of the New Testament developed, as a preliminary to sound exegesis. It is fitting therefore that the first volume of this anthology begins with a series of studies on the world in which Christianity was born and in which it grew to adulthood. The articles include discussions of Virgil’s fourth eclogue, focusing on the world redeemer motif; gnosis and magic; Peter as a Roman martyr; church government in the early centuries; Constantine’s politically conditioned Christianity; Jerome and Chrysostom; the text of the Jena Irenaeus-Papyrus; and a brief history of early Christian art. The second volume is a bit slimmer, but will be prized especially by the student of the New Testament text. The first two essays express the intimate relationship between sound scientific Biblical exegesis and homiletical appropriation, between the pastor’s study and his pulpit. In the opening article, “Der Theolog und das Neue Testament,” Lietzmann answers with a vehement “no” the question: Is not the modern student of the Word dispensed from doing his own philological work, since we have good Bible translations and commentaries? The theological controversies and debates of our time, Lietzmann points out, suggest that the “authorities” do not have all the answers and that a return to the Scriptures must be made by everyone who would communicate its message. Since the interpreter’s environment is always a fresh one, he cannot escape the responsibility of a fresh translation or interpretation of old texts to a modern age. But to do this, he must go back to the original.

The second portion of the second volume is devoted to the history of the New Testament text and to textual criticism. The five essays on the history of the New Testament text review...
canon are a classical discussion of this problem, and a model of unencumbered clarity. In an article entitled "Schallanalyse und Textkritik" Lietzmann describes the trick he played on Sievers and Schantze, who attempted to detect interpolations in the New Testament on the basis of alleged variations in tone and rhythm. Lietzmann took an unedited text of a life of Dalmatos and interpolated it with bits of text from various church fathers, lives of the martyrs and even some twentieth-century material. He replies with devastating aplomb to Sievers' and Schantze's agonized cry of "Foul!"

In a section devoted to historical matters in the New Testament, one article demonstrates (against Bultmann) that the story of Jesus' trial is basically true to history.

Most of these articles, which first appeared in various learned journals, are otherwise unavailable to the average student, but in these volumes he has at hand a low-priced education in New Testament studies.

FREDERICK W. DANKER


Johannes Weiss, who died in 1914, was one of the most influential New Testament theologians of the early twentieth century. Like Albert Schweitzer, he helped to popularize the idea of consistent (konsequente) eschatology. His masterwork Das Urchristentum, published in 1917, was translated into English in 1937, even though Weiss did not live to finish the work. This Harper Torchbook edition is a reprint with a new introduction and bibliography. Weiss set himself the task of reconstructing critically the history of the early church from a non-Pauline viewpoint. Because of the author's wide influence this reprint will be welcomed even by those who cannot accept his reconstruction.

EDGAR KRENTZ


This book is a sequel to the author's Gospel Story (New York, 1958). The text of Ronald Knox's translation of all the Pauline writings appears on the left-hand pages, with the opposite pages carrying a summary paraphrase, which is throughout a model of clarity as well as brevity. On the whole St. Paul's Gospel accents come out quite clearly in both the translation and the commentary.

FREDERICK W. DANKER


We have here, in a book written for university students and seminarians, authentic Roman Catholic doctrinal theology on the sacraments as taught to the future cleric and lay leaders of their church. A seventh of the book deals with the sacraments in general. Over one fourth of the volume treats of the Eucharist and one sixth of penance; approximately equal portions of 25—30 pages are devoted to Baptism, confirmation, order, and extreme unction; 50 pages on matrimony bring the work to a close. Each section contains several conclusions (theses), with comments that refute Protestant errors, adduce patrological proof, magisterial support and Scriptural quotations with exegesis, and provide syllogistic summaries. Scripture is used in a dogmatic and in an apologetic way. The dogmatic use reveals that and how the church has used a certain portion of Scripture. The apologetic use implies that the interpreter, professional exegete, or student has freedom
to use the passages intelligently and reserves the ultimate interpretation to the church if she wishes to make it. For McAuliffe proof from tradition is of equal, sometimes greater value, than proof from Scripture. Yet “in the United States our students come in almost daily contact with Protestants, who allege that Scripture alone is the rule of faith. Accordingly, the student should, especially in this country, become acquainted with proofs from Holy Writ.”

Budding, practicing, and tired theologians could well take to heart the introductory advice given here and apply it to their own reading of doctrinal theology: “This book will train you never to discuss any proposition without first understanding accurately its meaning. It will fashion your mind to orderly processes of thought. It will enable you in all branches of learning to distinguish substantial from accidentals... This book will amplify your knowledge of your faith, but it should also increase your appreciation for it. Other [college] courses aim, either solely or primarily, at your mind. This course aims at both your mind and your heart. To achieve these co-equal objectives, you must study, reflect, and pray.” This is a masterful performance by a member of the Society of Jesus, an order which is usually pretty persuasive in setting forth any of its causes.

GILBERT A. THIELE


This ambitious symposium has a twofold purpose: (1) To trace the course of conservative Protestant theology during the first five decades of this century; and (2) to delineate the present face of post-Fundamentalist conservative Protestantism. The ten participants are themselves among the foremost contributors to the theological renaissance which they describe—Edward J. Young ("The Old Testament"), Everett F. Harrison ("The New Testament"), Roger Nicole ("Theology"), Dirk Jellem ("Ethics"), Gordon H. Clark ("Apologetics"), Frank E. Gaebelein ("Education"), Earle E. Cairns ("Philosophy of History"), Harold Kuhn ("Philosophy of Religion"), the editor ("Science and Religion"), and Andrew W. Blackwood ("Evangelism and Preaching"). The careful reader who is interested in the direction that conservative Protestant theology is taking will find both their assertions and their reticences, like the cleavages and the agreements among them, of great interest. In general, the authors seem to be writing primarily for a like-minded public. As a bibliographical record—generally somewhat uncritical, however—of the theological writers who tended the flame of conservative Protestant scholarship during the dark and drafty decades of the conflict between Modernism and Fundamentalism, this collection of essays has undeniable value. The valiant but unsuccessful attempt to include in the catalog the contribution of "conservative" Lutherans serves only to emphasize the radical chasm between the Lutheran Church and Calvinism and the basic inapplicability of Calvinist criteria to Lutheran confessional theology and its professors.

ARTHUR CARL PIEPKORN


The author's scholarly study of Luther's theology in his book Let God Be God prepares the reader for these essays on the concept of grace. Anyone interested in Luther's theology cannot escape a concern for the concept of grace. In these essays Watson traces the history of its concept from the days of St. Paul to the present. He calls them essays on the way of divine love in human life. In discussing Luther's concept of grace he directs attention to the Reformer's em-
phasis on the power of the Word of God, in which the incarnate Word Jesus Christ comes to the sinner. The brevity of this little book should not encourage hasty and superficial reading. The subject is one of life or death for the sinner. 

L. W. SPITZ

THE BIBLE ON THE LIFE HEREAFTER.

The author of this book, formerly professor of New Testament at Calvin College, has produced an excellent and handy reference book, strongly fortified with Scripture, on a subject of universal and timeless interest. In 50 chapters, which never exceed five pages in length, inclusive of discussion topics, the author discusses individual and general eschatology. The first of these includes 18 chapters on death, immortality, and the intermediate state, while in the second section there are 32 chapters on the signs of the last times, Christ's second coming and other events associated with it, and the final fate of the righteous and of the wicked. The Bible references to each problem are in general carefully and aptly chosen. The Calvinism of the author shines through in connection with Matt. 25:46, where the doom of the wicked is ascribed to their reprobation from eternity. The Table of Contents and the Subject Index are full and clear, offering a ready access to any given problem.

O. E. SOHN

NEUE ZEITSCHRIFT FÜR SYSTEMATISCHE THEOLOGIE. Berlin W 35: Verlag Alfred Töpelmann, 1959. DM 36; for students, DM 28.80.

This is to introduce the successor to the former Zeitschrift für systematische Theologie. The name for this new venture in theological journalism was chosen in order to suggest the similarity of form and purpose with the former publication. A close connection between the two publications was also established by the choice of Paul Althaus as one of the two editors. His coeditor is Carl Heinz Ratchow of Münster. The prospect for the reader of this journal is a menu of a varied theological diet—some milk but mostly solid food. There will be 384 pages of it per year. This first number indicates that the editors are alert to the fact that theology is a \textit{habitus practicus} (\textit{θεόδοτος}).

L. W. SPITZ


Though the author does on the whole build gold, silver, and precious stones, extolling the power and goodness and wisdom of God in the creation, and describes the total record of creation from the first line to the last as "Das Hohelied der Allmacht Gottes," he does not hesitate from beginning to end to build wood, hay, and stubble by placing the beginning of the world ten billion years and the creation of man 4½ billion years into the past. According to Dicke, man was not created as described in Genesis 1 and 2, but, as certain archaeological finds near Lake Victoria in Africa have proved to him, descended some 25 millions of years ago from the so-called primates, which then evolved in two directions, the one type becoming Homo sapiens and the other chimpanzees, or anthropoid apes, which, however, are separated from the anthropoids of today by a wide and deep chasm. Then follows this lucid explanation: "For a layman of today it is not easy to find his way through the various finds and discoveries, yet through them, in the words of Karl Heim, there extends a main line which becomes ever more clear, in which we can detect the tracks of the Creator, who according to a definite plan, through thousands of years, prepared the appearance of Homo sapiens, the king of creation. We people of today, consequently, believe to have learned that the origin of our being is to be sought..."
at a time at least 20 millions of years ago.” What this assumption does to the simple creation story, the author does not seem to suspect. Were Adam and Eve products of evolution, or of direct divine creation, on the sixth day in the beginning (Gen. 1:1, 26-31; Matt. 19:4)? The Bible record is plain.

O. E. SOHN


If a contrast were to be made between these two volumes, beyond mere size, it would be that Ryden has treated hymnody more on the basis of the hymn writers, Liemohn more on the basis of countries and times. Both authors have rendered a useful service by their contributions; they by no means exclude each other. The pastor, the choirmaster, the church organist will profit from each of these volumes for his ministry of music. Ryden’s work is a revision and enlargement of his The Story of Our Hymns which appeared first in 1930 and received seven editions. It deserves high commendation.

The hymns of Christendom are a common heritage. The earliest church was a singing church. The Middle Ages saw some outstanding hymns composed in Greek and Latin. The Reformation sang its way into the hearts of many people with the hymns of Luther and his co-workers and contemporaries. In spite of the efforts of some of the Reformed theologians, even Calvinism produced some outstanding hymns. When Puritanism’s hymnody is contrasted with Pietism’s, the latter is seen to have merit. The Lutheran heritage is greater than the Reformed in hymnody, perhaps most evident among the Scandinavian hymn writers. Brorson, Landstad, Wallin, and Kingo, for instance, should not be crowded out by English or even American hymn writers. The “singing church” must not neglect her treasure.

CARL S. MEYER


It is most appropriate that the year in which the Centennial of Protestant Missions in Japan was celebrated should see the publication of this volume on the first three decades of Protestant history, with special accent on the heyday progress during the 1880s. Those familiar with the mission history of Japan since World War II will be quick to see a parallel between recent events and the spectacular growth of the ’80s, which was retarded in the ’90s by resurgent nationalism. The frost of nationalism in the ’50s has once again chilled the blossom of the ’40s. Winburn Thomas, who first wrote this opus as a doctoral dissertation at Yale under Kenneth Scott Latourette in 1942, came to Japan as missionary in 1933 and is therefore well acquainted with the scene where the action was laid. William Woodward and Frank Cary have helped to bring the work up to date. The copious notes, excellent bibliography, and glossary of Japanese terms add to the usefulness of the text. This is a must for all students of the church in Japan.

WILLIAM J. DANKER


The author of these twenty sermons is a Presbyterian who has served 40 years at the same church in Baltimore. The Foreword by President Edman of Wheaton College, his service for many years as president
of Canadian Keswick, the sturdy, Biblical, outlined, and soberly illustrated style place this preacher among the evangelicals. The victorious life, ranging from the commitment of faith to the application to duty, is the common denominator of the preaching goals of these sermons. The impulse thereto is only occasionally the Savior’s atonement; at times it is His second coming or the Bible; although the reader will learn to presuppose the Cross in all of the sermons. The volume is beautifully printed.

RICHARD R. CAEMMERER


The Etta Library for Christian Educators is a catalog of several hundred Christian education books, periodicals, and other teaching aids. Teaching Techniques for the Sunday School, a revision of Benson’s Guide for Pedagogy, emphasizing content rather than method, reflects the author’s competence as pedagog, outlines good teaching procedures and techniques, and is an excellent textbook for teacher-training classes. Ruth Clark’s text is a stimulating and comprehensive reference handbook for vacation Bible school workers.

GERALD G. MERKENS


The author is widely known for his book The Practice of Evangelism (Scribner’s, 1951), and for his evangelistic campaigns in Europe, America, and Australia. He is rector of an Anglican congregation in Birmingham, England, a canon of the cathedral there. As such his thinking is informed much more amply by the doctrine of the Holy Christian Church than is the case in a great deal of American evangelistic literature. In this little book the author seeks to meet a need when bringing people back into the church, namely, for confronting them with the clear implications of church membership for Christian character and duty. Proceeding from the definition of a man “in Christ,” the book discusses concepts like daily Communion; efficiency, understanding, willingness to suffer, gentleness, sharing and creative power, in Christlikeness; and the life of fellowship, discovery, freedom, moral struggle, and humility. The style is non-technical and conversational. In some instances the author’s observations are hardly for neophytes in the church, but are reflections from his own experience concerning the church in the world.

RICHARD R. CAEMMERER


These sermons read well. The basic interpretation of the Book of Revelation, which they treat, is sensible. The writer is amillennial. Some of the sermons, which is to be expected, involve considerable exegetical detail. In all of them the writer seeks to make a confidence in the Lordship of Christ climactic and central. In some of them the redemption is preached memorably.

RICHARD R. CAEMMERER


Once again the religion editor of the New York Daily Mirror presents the 42 best sermons which he selected from his reading of more than 7,700 manuscripts submitted. Most of the contemporary pulpit “greats” are represented — Sockman, Weatherhead, Stewart, Kennedy, McCracken, Scherer (they
represent the first six sermons in the volume). A few newer voices also are heard. Three lay sermons are included—by John Foster Dulles, Nathan Pusey, and Irwin Lembers. Positively one is heartened by Samuel Cavert's foreword, in which he urges a number of criteria for judging effective Biblical preaching. Though there are a few notable exceptions in this volume, it is amazing to see how Protestant preaching is shifting back to the Scriptures. Negatively one wonders whether this book truly represents the "best" Christian preaching in our land. Does the carefully laid annual banquet represent the "best" in the day-in-day-out task of nourishing a nation? The same is true of the ongoing preaching task of the church.

DAVID S. SCHULLER


This volume is a report of the eighth Annual Southern Conference on Gerontology. While former institutes focused on aging and health, economic problems and services, the eight presentations included in the book revolve about the role of religion and religious institutions. Seward Hiltner lays the foundations of "A Theology of Aging." Two presentations consider organized religion's contribution to the Jewish and Protestant aged. Other chapters consider the meaning of religion to the aged from a medical and psychiatric viewpoint. Samuel Blizzard views critically means for expanding the services of the church to the aged. The book is broad in scope—including everything from philosophic presuppositions to detailing of program; some authors attempted to survey all of the research findings pertinent to their area; others described only their own programs. The volume is useful for all churchmen dealing with any sizable number of aged people. It explodes with documentation a number of old stereotypes and should stimulate a deeper ministry among this group.

DAVID S. SCHULLER


If ever the quiet of the night finds you feeling discouraged and dejected about your work in the ministry, this deeply spiritual little book will speak to your need. The author presented the material as the Kellogg Lectures at the Episcopal Theological School at Cambridge, Mass., last year. He deals simply with the pastor, the administrator, the preacher, the teacher, and the priest. The sum total is pastoral theology at its best. In talking with the pastor he is humble, but never apologetic. He offers sympathy and understanding without condoning indolence or melancholy. His judgments on the pastoral life are penetrating but given in a radiant Christian hope. The book is a rewarding blend of theology, devotion, social insight, and practical experience—all cast into the frame of a ministry under our Lord to people entrusted to our care.

DAVID S. SCHULLER


Conant's contributions to American education may easily outweigh his contributions to science or diplomacy. In a short, readable, significant report he describes the characteristics of American education and the comprehensive high school as one of its unique features. He adds recommendations for improving public education. Lutheran educators must know this book. Since, in the words of John Gardner, the comprehensive high school is responsible "for providing good and appropriate education, both academic and vo-
cational, for all young people within a democratic environment which the American people believe serves the principles they cherish,” the guides of these young people, too, will want to know about these schools.

CARL S. MEYER


Planned, as was the Cambridge Modern History a half century and more ago, as a co-operative work by selected scholars, the New Cambridge Modern History bids fair to rank with its predecessor. Sir George Clark has planned the present series of fifteen volumes together with an advisory committee. Elton of Cambridge University is the editor of the second volume.

After an introductory chapter of magnificent proportions by the editor, successive chapters deal with economic change, Luther and the German Reformation, the Reformation in the various countries of Europe, the beginnings of the reform movement within the Roman Catholic Church, political events in the age of the Reformation, intellectual currents and academic institutions, even Eastern Europe, where the Ottoman Turks and the Russians held sway, and the New World. The age of the Reformation is regarded as a coherent whole, medieval as well as modern in its make-up. While theological concerns predominated, material and political and social and international concerns loomed large and were conditioned in part by the theological concerns.

The chapters on the Lutheran Reformation will likely interest most Lutherans particularly. E. G. Rupp of Manchester has dealt with Luther most understandingly. From his vast researches in the writings of Luther he has distilled an account of Luther’s activities until 1529 that is difficult to match in similar compass in any language — and Rupp’s English, it must be added, is surpassed only by his scholarship. N. K. Andersen of the University of Copenhagen has written the chapter on the Reformation in Scandinavia and the Baltic.

Not all chapters are as easily read as are these two. All of them contribute to a well-rounded, authoritative account of the period. It is not necessary to purchase or to subscribe for the entire set; the present volume can be purchased separately.


Motley’s classic, Rise of the Dutch Republic, told of the conflict between Roman Catholicism, allied with Absolutism, and Protestantism, the champion of liberty. He oversimplified the history of the beginnings of the Dutch people. National, social, economic factors also played into the struggle. The emergence of the state we know as Holland is portrayed by Geyl as a complex movement. His interpretation has found wide acceptance, as is shown by the fact that this is the third printing. After 25 years it is still a standard work.


In 1708 in Schwarzenau, Germany, the Täufer, or Tunker, church came into being with the trine immersion of eight persons, among whom was Alexander Mack. By 1719 one group had emigrated to America, fol-
lowed by a second group in 1729. The Ephrata movement, the threefold division in 1881, and the Ashland-Grace controversy (1936–39) are part of the history of the Brethren. Kent belongs to the National Fellowship of the Brethren Churches and admits that he writes from that point of view. Even so, the story he tells is one worth noting as a chapter in the history of the churches in America. Eby's essays speak of the Brethren and the Mennonites, of social and philosophical questions. Eby is a man of convictions, even though we cannot share all of them, and of insight into men and institutions; he loves people and writes well. His book makes delightful and thought-compelling reading. He believes, for instance, that "there is no substitute for a religiously orientated family and a church to nurture it" (p. 232). The judgments he expresses throughout his book are significant. 

CARL S. MEYER

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)


