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ARTHUR CARL PIEPKORN

The Historical Background of
"A Brief Statement"
CARL S. MEYER

Homiletics

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BOOK REVIEW

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DIMENSIONS OF FAITH: CONTEMPORARY PROPHETIC PROTESTANT THEOLOGY. Edited by William Kimmel and Geoffrey Clive. New York: Twayne Publishers, 1960. 507 pages. Cloth. \$6.95.

A decisive feature of "prophetic theology," James Luther Adams asserts in his preface to this anthology, is "its intention to expose man's assistance, and particularly the religious man's assistance, 'at the birth of 'no-God,' at the making of idols'" (pp. 10 to 11), among which Adams includes Christianity as a historical phenomenon, the Bible as a cultural creation, culture with all its "riches," the domestication of the commanding, judging, sustaining, and transforming power toward which history and culture point outside of themselves, and everything else that is of the creaturely order. This stance is one of the criteria for the selection of the readings in this volume. At the same time, because "prophetic theology," as Adams describes it, does "not look for simple unanimity in the formulation or the understanding of the Christian message" (p. 12), it is engaged in a constant conversation about the meaning of Christian faith in thought and action. The present anthology exhibits this accent also. The readings generally reproduce classic essays or excerpts. For example, in the first part, the acknowledged ancestor of "prophetic theology," Kierkegaard, is represented by two selections illustrating the unreasonableness of faith, Barth by selections from his *Epistle to the Romans*, and Bultmann by his programmatic "New Testament and Mythology." The remainder of the

book brings excerpts from Rudolf Otto, Fyodor Dostoyevsky, and Nicholas Berdyaev under the heading, "The Dynamics of Creativity," and from Oscar Cullman, H. Richard and Reinhold Niebuhr, Richard Kroner, and Paul Tillich under the head of "The Incarnation." For the parson or other person who prefers a firsthand acquaintance with a good cross section to somebody else's opinions about contemporary theological trends this is a commendable introduction.

ARTHUR CARL PIEPKORN

THE AGE OF MARTYRS. By Giuseppe Ricciotti. Translated from the Italian by Anthony Bull. Milwaukee: The Bruce Publishing Company, 1959. viii and 305 pages. Cloth. \$4.95.

This book deals with the martyrs in the reign of Diocletian and the period immediately following. It does not deal in any way with earlier Roman practice. It is important to note this, since early persecution differed basically from that of the third and early fourth centuries. The author is careful not to read back into any earlier persecutions the data from the Diocletian period. His discussion of the causes of the persecution is quite fair. He makes it clear that it is difficult to claim that either Neoplatonism or any nationalistic factors were all-important influences. Seemingly it was more personality and party rivalries than anything else. The author blames Galerius as the evil genius of Diocletian here.

The author is also quite fair in his treatment of Constantine. He does not hark back to the discredited theory that Con-

stantine adopted Christianity merely for reasons of state. He admits that Constantine's understanding of the faith was rather limited and that he accepted the faith in the first place because the Christian God was seemingly more powerful than the others, but according to Ricciotti he was sincere.

The bulk of the book deals with the acts and the passions of the Martyrs. The author's use of documents is worthy of praise. He deals with the documents in such a way that footnotes are unnecessary. The reader is given enough information that he may well disagree with the author, and yet he will admit that the author's eye is critical. The references at the rear of the book to the sources for the acts and passions are helpful.

The book is well written and could be added to a church library so that the general reader is given an appreciation of what the Christians of the past suffered to "carry their cross." WALTER W. OETTING

THE LEARNED MEN. By Gustavus S. Paine. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Co., 1959. xi and 212 pages. Cloth. \$4.74.

"Dutch" Thomson liked his liquor; George Abbott became the only Archbishop of Canterbury who killed a man; John Bois had learned Hebrew at the age of five; John Layfield had been in the West Indies; John Richardson was fat. These were some of "the learned men," the men who perfected the King James Version, published in 1611. There were perhaps 56 men altogether who had a direct hand in this translation. Miles Smith, with Bishop Thomas Bilson, did the final editorial work on the project. Another bishop, Lancelot Andrewes, was its guiding genius; an archbishop, Richard Bancroft (the predecessor of George Abbott), was its official promoter. Except in their devotion to learning and to the Scriptures, these men — 54 in number, or 56 — did not agree among themselves, for some of them were Puritans.

They followed a well-developed set of rules in their translations, and their final product has been recognized longer for its worth than any of them dared hope. Not that it was accepted immediately — there is no record that it was "authorized." "Badly as some of the committee could write on other occasions, not only was theirs the best of the English Bibles; there is, in no modern language, a Bible worthy to be compared with it as literature" (p. 169). So opines Paine; only late in his account does he come to a recognition that there may be some faults in the translation. But he tells the story superbly, along with a few minor inaccuracies, in an account commended for reading in this 350th anniversary year of the "Authorized Version." CARL S. MEYER

THE PROPHETS OF ISRAEL. By Curt Kuhl. Richmond, Va.: John Knox Press, 1960. vii and 199 pages. Cloth. \$3.50.

This translation of *Israel's Prophets* adds another volume to the variety of recent works on this subject. The writer's emphasis upon the historical background to the various prophetic personalities from Samuel to Daniel throws into relief the relevance of the prophetic oracle for its immediate hearers, and its place in the world of the ancient Near East. With this emphasis in mind, the reader will not find Kuhl's frequent use of literary criticism a stumbling block. A scholarly, concise introduction to *all* of the Old Testament prophets! N. HABEL

FROM PATRIARCH TO PROPHET. By Allen Wehrli. Philadelphia: The Christian Education Press, 1960. xi and 207 pages. Cloth. \$3.00.

Recent efforts to make the message of the Old Testament relevant to the problems of today are relatively few. We welcome the effort of this author to do just that. Reproductions of tape recordings from his lectures on selected passages and personalities of the

Old Testament form the basis for the book. The issues which faced Moses and the patriarchs, in particular, are seen to coincide with those before the believer today. One may not agree with the exegesis at every point; yet the material will prove helpful to Bible student and sermon writer alike.

NORMAN HABEL

ORDEAL OF FAITH: THE CRISIS OF CHURCHGOING AMERICA, 1865 TO 1900. By Francis P. Weisenburger. New York: Philosophical Library, 1959. ix and 80 pages. Cloth. \$6.00.

Anticlericalism, Darwinism, Higher Criticism, the New Sociology, Liberalism were some of the forces that influenced the thought and life of the churches in America in the 35 or so years after the Civil War. Weisenburger of Ohio State University attempts to synthesize these movements and to show their impact on the churches. He documents his generalizations with illustrations and instances combed from a vast array of sources, from the experiences of the known and lesser known of all denominations. The work will be useful to all those who know how to distinguish and sift.

CARL S. MEYER

THE BOOK OF REVELATION: A SIMPLIFIED COMMENTARY. By Harry Buis. Philadelphia: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company, 1960. 124 pages. Paper. No price given.

Using the text of the King James Version, the author gives a verse-by-verse commentary on the last book of the Bible. He follows the preterist-symbolical method of interpretation, holding that practically the entire book, except the last two chapters, refers to the early church in its struggle with the persecuting Roman Empire; that the images and numbers in the book are symbolical; that the book teaches the church of all ages that God always uses His power in behalf of His

people and will finally lead them to victory. The weakness of this commentary is that it presents no clear outline of the book and does not lead to an appreciation of its literary power. This weakness, however, is more than counterbalanced by its strength: simplicity, sanity, and soundness of hermeneutic principles and doctrinal content. An ordinary layman can follow this commentary with profit, as a prophylactic, too, against the fanciful interpretations of millennialist cults and dreamers.

VICTOR BARTLING

REDEMPTIVE COUNSELING. By Dayton G. Van Deusen. Richmond, Va.: John Knox Press, 1960. 191 pages. Cloth. \$3.50.

Van Deusen is on the staff of the Division of Welfare of the National Lutheran Council. He contends that psychotherapy has a contribution to make to the "redemptive mission" of the church. At the same time he recognizes the limitations of psychotherapy in its usefulness to the church.

In the first section the author states that psychotherapy challenges the "church's redemptiveness," that is, the church could do a better job if it used some of the insights of psychotherapy. In the second section the point is that the Christian mission and psychotherapy meet in the person. It is the *person* that must be transformed through *personal* encounter. The principles laid down in the forepart of the book are pulled together in the last section and applied to pastoral counseling.

It is in the last part of the book that the author scores most heavily. Here he emphasizes the way in which counseling can serve as an instrument through which the Holy Spirit works faith. The earlier sections of the book seem somewhat abstruse. The word "redemption" is defined according to Lutheran doctrine, but then apparently used most often in the meaning of sanctification.

KENNETH H. BREIMEIER

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)

Astrology and Religion Among the Greeks and Romans. By Franz Cumont; trans. J. B. Baker. New York: Dover Publications, 1960. 115 pages. Paper. \$1.35. An unabridged republication of the 1911—12 American Lectures on the History of Religions, long out of print, by one of Europe's most outstanding archaeologists and classicists of the early 20th century. In the six lectures that compose the work he endeavors to show "how oriental astrology and star-worship transformed the beliefs of the Graeco-Latin world, what at different periods was the ever-increasing strength of their influence, and by what means they established in the West a sidereal cult which was the highest phase of ancient paganism."

Messages on Prayer. By B. H. Carroll; ed. J. W. Crowder and J. B. Cranfill. Nashville: Broadman Press [1960], c. 1942. 167 pages. Paper. \$1.25. A paperback reprint of 11 sermons by the founder and first president of the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary at Fort Worth, Tex.

Christian Discourses; The Lilies of the Field and the Birds of the Air; Three Discourses at the Communion on Fridays. By Søren Kierkegaard; translated from the Danish and edited by Walter Lowrie. New York: Oxford University Press, 1961. xviii and 389 pages. Paper. \$1.85. A great Kierkegaard scholar's sympathetic translations—first published two decades ago—of three works of the Danish father of existentialism here become available in a paperback reissue. These works are of special importance for students of Kierkegaard's religious development in that they are written under the influence of his profound experience of Holy Week 1848 and stress more than some of his later works the idea of the divine immanence.

Religion and Science. By Bertrand Russell. New York: Oxford University Press, 1961. 256 pages. Paper. \$1.25. Controversial Earl Russell's uncompromising statement of disbelief, here reissued in unaltered paperback form, is now over a quarter of a century old

and somewhat dated, but not without continuing significance.

Psychotherapy and a Christian View of Man. By David E. Roberts. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons [1961], c. 1950. xiv and 161 pages. Paper. \$1.25. In this work the late author—he died in 1955—attempted to chart the course for a *rapprochement*, if not a reconciliation, between the Christian doctrine of man and the secular anthropology of psychotherapy and related disciplines. The present edition is an unaltered paperback reissue of the original hard-cover work.

Christianity and History. By H. Butterfield. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons [1961], c. 1949/1950. vi and 146 pages. Paper. \$1.25. An unchanged reissue of an attention-commanding series of radio lectures delivered on the British Broadcasting Company's Third Programme in 1949 and amplified for publication. A distinguished Cambridge University professor of modern history reflects on the meaning of the fact that Christianity is a historical religion.

The Shaking of the Foundations. By Paul Tillich. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons [1961], c. 1948. 186 pages. Paper. \$1.25. An unaltered paperback reissue of the first volume of Tillich's printed sermons, printed at the behest of his students who professed difficulty with his theological thought in the classroom but who believed that in his sermons "the practical, or, more exactly, the existential implications" of his theology more completely manifested themselves.

Reason and Revelation in the Middle Ages. By Etienne Gilson. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons [1961], c. 1938. 114 pages. Paper. \$1.25. This volume contains the great medievalist's important 1937 Richard Lectures at the University of Virginia, reissued as a paperback, in which he surveys the medieval insights about faith and about reason and the centuries-long effort at synthesizing them.

Illustrations of the History of Medieval Thought and Learning. By Reginald Lane Poole. Second edition. New York: Dover Publications, 1960. xiii and 327 pages. Paper. \$1.85. Poole first published his *Illustrations* in 1884, and in the modernized edition of 1920, here reproduced without alterations, he made changes in the original script "with a sparing hand," as he himself says. It is a tribute to his solid work that the book is still readable and useful. His panorama spans the 600 years from Claudius of Turin to John Wyclif and covers most of the big names among the savants of the West during that period—including Agobard of Lyons, John Scotus, Abélard, Gilbert de la Porrée, John of Salisbury, St. Thomas Aquinas, Marsilius of Padua, and William of Ockham.

Flaming Fagots. By Rosalee Mills Appleby. Nashville: Broadman Press [1960], c. 1943. 252 pages. Paper. \$1.50. Sixteen reflections by a woman missionary to Brazil, reissued as a paperback.

The Pursuit of the Millennium: Revolutionary Messianism in Medieval and Reformation Europe and Its Bearing on Modern Totalitarian Movements. By Norman Cohn. New York: Harper and Brothers, 1961. xvi and 481 pages. Paper. \$2.25. Eschewing the themes of social revolt, sectarian heresy, and millenarian spiritualism in the Middle Ages, the author of this energetically discussed and impeccably documented study addressed himself in the original 1957 edition to "the process by which traditional beliefs about a future golden age or messianic kingdom became, in certain situations of mass disorientation and anxiety [during the Middle Ages], the ideologies of [northern and central European] popular movements of a peculiarly anarchic kind" (p.v). In this new paperback edition the basic structure of the original has been retained. The chapter on "The Saints Against the Hosts of Antichrist" has been clarified, the chapter on the Barbarossa myth has been shortened, and the parallels between the medieval movements and the Nazi and Communist revolutionary fanaticisms of our time have been more deliberately sharpened. The new con-

cluding chapter develops the last point by pointing up the thesis that "militant, revolutionary chiasm did not disappear with the fall of the New Jerusalem at Münster" and that the source of the great fanaticisms that have convulsed the world in our day is still "a boundless, millennial promise made with boundless, prophetlike conviction to a number of rootless and desperate men in the midst of a society where traditional norms and relationships are disintegrating." (P. 319)

Leibniz. By Herbert Wildon Carr. New York: Dover Publications, 1960. 222 pages. Paper. \$1.35. Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz, the great philosopher of the Enlightenment, is not the easiest writer to follow or to understand, but Carr, professor of philosophy at the University of London and later fellow in the University of Southern California's School of Philosophy, is widely regarded as having produced in this volume (an unaltered reprint of the original 1929 edition) one of the most easily followed and stimulating guides to Leibniz' life, philosophy, influence, and contemporary relevance.

Die Essener in der wissenschaftlichen Diskussion vom Ausgang des 18. bis zum Beginn des 20. Jahrhunderts: Eine wissenschaftsgeschichtliche Studie. By Siegfried Wagner. Berlin: Verlag Alfred Töpelmann, 1960. xi and 284 pages. Paper. Price not given.

Music and Worship in the Church. By Austin C. Lovelace and William C. Rice. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1960. 220 pages. Cloth. \$4.00.

On the Trial of Jesus. By Paul Winter. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter and Co., 1961. 216 pages. Cloth. DM 22.00.

The Book of Proverbs With a Commentary. By J. Terence Forestell. New York: Paulist Press, 1960. 96 pages. Paper. 75 cents.

The Inextinguishable Blaze: Spiritual Renewal and Advance in the Eighteenth Century. By A. Skevington Wood. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1960. 256 pages. Cloth. \$3.75.

Guide to the Bible: An Introduction to the Study of Holy Scripture. By A. Robert and A. Tricot; translated from the French by Edward P. Arbez and Martin R. P. McGuire. Second edition. New York: Desclee Co. Cloth. Vol. I: 1960, xxvi and 812 pages, \$8.00; Vol. II: 1955, xv and 622 pages, \$6.00.

The Spain of Ferdinand and Isabella. By Jean Hippolyte Mariéjol; translated and edited by Benjamin Keen. New Brunswick, N. J.: Rutgers University Press, 1961. xxvi and 429 pages. Cloth. \$7.50.

Lonely God, Lonely Man: A Study in the Relation of Loneliness to Personal Development, With a Re-evaluation of Christian Tradition. By Dean Turner. New York: Philosophical Library, 1960. 191 pages. Cloth. \$3.75.

Children and Religion. By Dora P. Chaplin. Revised edition. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1961. xiii and 238 pages. Cloth. \$3.95.

Adolescence and Discipline: A Mental Hygiene Primer. By Rudolph M. Wittenberg. New York: Association Press, 1959. 318 pages. Cloth. \$4.95.

The Christian as Communicator. By Harry A. DeWire. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1960. 198 pages. Cloth. \$4.50.

The Cross Through the Open Tomb. By Donald Grey Barnhouse. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1961. 152 pages. Cloth. \$3.00.

Ethics and the Gospel. By T. W. Manson. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1960. 109 pages. Cloth. \$2.75.

Man as Churchman. By Norman Sykes. London: Cambridge University Press, 1960. xi and 203 pages. Cloth. \$4.00.

Teaching the Catholic Catechism with the Religion Workbook. Vol. III: *Life in Accordance with God's Commandments* (*Katechismusunterricht mit dem Werkheft, dritter Teil, Vom Leben nach den Geboten und von den Letzten Dingen*). By Joseph Goldbrunner; translated by Bernard Adkins. New York: Herder and Herder, 1960. 122 pages. Paper. Price not given.

Family Story. By Philip F. McNairy. Greenwich, Conn.: Seabury Press, 1960. v and 138 pages. Paper. Price not given.

Evangelism: The Church on Fire. By Robert L. Sumner. Chicago: Regular Baptist Press, 1960. 220 pages. Cloth. Price not given.

Introduction to Group Dynamics. By Malcolm and Hulda F. Knowles. New York: Association Press, 1959. 95 pages. Cloth. \$2.50.

Music as Metaphor: The Elements of Expression. By Donald N. Ferguson. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1960. xii and 198 pages. Cloth. \$4.75.

A Bibliography of Bible Study for Theological Students. Second edition. Princeton, N. J.: Princeton Theological Seminary, 1960. 107 pages. Paper. \$1.00.

Petrus: Jünger — Apostel — Märtyrer: Das historische und das theologische Petrusproblem. By Oscar Cullmann. Second edition. Zwingli Verlag: Zürich, Switzerland, 1960. 287 pages. Paper. Sw. Fr. 24.00.

Biblical Thought and the Secular University. By George Arthur Buttrick. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1960. viii and 85 pages. Cloth. \$2.50.

Three Traditions of Moral Thought. By Dorothea Krook. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1959. xiii and 355 pages. Cloth. \$5.50.

The Quest for Equality: The Constitution, Congress and the Supreme Court. By Robert J. Harris. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1960. xiv and 172 pages. Cloth. \$4.00.

Retarded Children: God's Children. By Sigurd D. Petersen. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1960. 156 pages. Cloth. \$3.00.

Altogether Lovely: A Book for Teen-Age Girls. By Charlene Johnson. Rock Island, Ill.: Augustana Press, 1960. 112 pages. Cloth. \$2.00.

Jesus of Nazareth. By Günther Bornkamm; translated from the German by Irene and Fraser McLuskey with James M. Robinson. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1960. 239 pages. Cloth. \$4.00.