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UNIFORMITY OF LITURGY FOR OUR ENGLISH CHURCHES.

The deplorable fact that no uniformity of liturgy for our English services exists in our Synod no one who has given the matter any consideration will deny. Since our Synod has not supplied a satisfactory liturgy for our English services, each congregation with its pastor, in introducing English services, is forced to cast about for some suitable order of service. The consequence is, that most congregations have made a liturgy to meet the requirements of their own good, or bad, liturgical taste. The outcome usually has been an order of service that is as cold and bare, and devoid of churchliness, as if it had been prescribed by unfeeling, iconoclastic Rationalism itself.

Of course, every congregation has the privilege so to do. The order of service is an adiaphoron, and according to the *Formula of Concord* "we believe, teach, and confess that the Church of God of every place and every time has, according to its circumstances, the authority, power, and right (in matters truly adiaphora) to change, to diminish, and to increase them without thoughtlessness and offense, in an orderly and becoming way."¹) Neither should we condemn such congregations as heterodox that have more or less ceremonies than seems good to us. "We believe, teach, and confess also that no Church should condemn another because one has less or more external ceremonies not commanded by God than the other,

1) *Formula of Concord II*, ch. X, § 9.

BOOK REVIEW.

HAUPT-SACHREGISTER, SPRUCHREGISTER, BERICHTIGUNGEN
UND NACHTRAEGE ZU SAEMTLICHEN BAENDEN DER
ST. LOUISER AUSGABE VON LUTHERS WERKEN. St.
Louis, Mo. Concordia Publ. House. 1910. VII pages
and 2203 columns. Price: Sheep Binding, \$5.00; Law
Buckram, \$4.25.

The concluding volume (XXIII) of the St. Louis edition of Luther's works will go by the name of the "Index Volume." But to merely call it that seems hardly to do justice to the immense amount of honest, scholarly, efficient work that has been crowded into its more than one thousand pages. First comes the Index proper, col. 1—2132. There are indexes and indexes. Some are mere fragmentary hints, couched in the diction of a telegram, immensely brief, obscure, and perplexing. Others are undigested contrivances which register the contents of a book in a mechanical way, without an effort to judiciously arrange homogeneous matters. The compilation of an index seems a very easy matter, but to produce a good, working index is a very arduous task. Especially an index of Luther's Works. It requires good, discriminating judgment, which knows both how to divide and to combine, readily perceives the various bearings which a certain remark of the Reformer has, and strives, if possible, to

make the reference speak Luther's language. The volume before us is much more than a dry list of words in alphabetical order, flanked by an array of still more dry references to volumes and pages: it is almost a collection of excerpts, topically arranged, and not only indicates where certain information may be obtained, but furnishes a part of the information itself. The busy scholar will appreciate this feature greatly. As a test of the value of this Index we would suggest the perusal of the copious references given under two or three of the following terms: "Busse," "Christus," "Gerechtigkeit," "Glaube," "Kirche," "Luther," "Papst," "Predigt," "Suende," "Werke," "Wort Gottes." These articles are a revelation not only as regards the wealth of information contained in the twenty-two volumes of the Luther edition published by the Missouri Synod, but also as regards the patient work of research, collation, and grouping performed by the editor, Prof. A. F. Hoppe, in the preparation of this volume. Nor has he selected only the important matters and leading ideas in Luther's many treatises for registration, but also brief references to comparatively trivial matters have found their place in this Index, as can be seen from such titles as "Abelonen," "Agtstein," "ausgehen," "Baerwolf," etc. The letter A alone in this Index contains 276 titles. In a few places it has seemed to us that a separate title would not have been necessary, *e. g.*, "Beichtender, Ein" (comp. "beichten"), "menschlich," "Ostertag" (comp. "Osterfest," "Ostern").—The Index contains all references to historical events, personages, places, etc., which occur in Luther's Works.

Next comes an Index of Passages which have been explained in Luther's writings. This Index is intended to supplement similar indexes in vols. 2, 12, and 13. It is very prolix; for Romans alone it contains nearly 400 references. It fills 29 columns of small print.

The next division is of the very highest value to the student of Luther's Works: it contains emendations and supplements to the 22 volumes of the St. Louis edition. In this section the critical skill of the lifelong student of Luther is in evidence. And to what extent the previous volumes have gained in exactness through this part of Prof. Hoppe's work, can be surmised when we note that for vol. X alone 330 emendations are offered. This division embraces 40 columns.

At the end of the volume there is a device by which the odd and often perplexing dates which Luther employs in his writings can be reduced to our modern calendar.

In every sense the old adage, "*Finis coronat opus*," applies to this Index Volume. It is the master-key to a vast storehouse of Christian, Biblical information. It will stimulate afresh the study

of Luther's writings, because it renders such study greatly less tiresome, especially topical study, and it will make all who do not possess the St. Louis Luther feel very keenly the need of this edition.

BETRAEGE ZUR PRAKTISCHEN BEHANDLUNG DER BIBLISCHEN GESCHICHTE. Neues Testament. Von W. Wegener. St. Louis, Mo. Concordia Publishing House. 1910. VI and 298 pages. Price, \$1.00, postpaid.

This book exhibits the author's method of teaching Bible stories. He regards four points as essential. First, the heading of the story. This is to be firmly fixed in the child's mind as a distinctive mark by which the child is enabled to recognize particular stories and to refer to them later. Secondly, the introduction. This is to prepare the way for the intelligent comprehension of the story by the child. Thirdly, the recitation of the story by the teacher. Lastly, the catechetical review of the story. The author discusses this method at greater length in the introduction. The body of the book is taken up by 73 stories from the New Testament. The text-book issued by the Missouri Synod for intermediate classes of graded parochial schools is taken as a basis. For these stories the author offers the requisite introductory material, and the recitation by the teacher. The catechetical review of the stories is not given. The book is in no way a *pons asinorum*. It is a good pedagogical guide to the impartation of this branch of religious knowledge, and ought to stimulate the teacher to personal efforts of his own. The stories treated in this book are made very interesting by the illuminating remarks suggested to the teacher in the Introduction and in the Recitation; and he is shown how to facilitate the child's study of the stories by happy divisions of the story into suitable parts.

Concordia Publishing House announces the following brochures:

1. *Katalog der Lehranstalten*. A summary of the year's work (1909/10) in the ten institutions of higher education conducted by the Missouri Synod, with roster of teachers and students.

2. *Doctrine of the Trinity as exhibited in the Old Testament*. Conclusion of a doctrinal paper submitted by *Prof. Pardieck* to the Western District of the Missouri Synod. 25 pages. Price, 12 cts.

3. *Transactions of the Brazil District* of the Missouri Synod at its convention in 1909 at Santa Cruz, Rio Grande do Sul. 32 pages. Price, 8 cts.

4. *The Assurance of Salvation*. Conclusion of a doctrinal paper

submitted by *Rev. W. Luessenhop* to the Oregon and Washington District of the Missouri Synod. 21 pages. Price, 10 cts.

5. *Blemishes in the Corinthian Congregation, with Paul's Directions How to Remove and Overcome them*—a lesson for our congregations. A doctrinal paper submitted by *Rev. Alb. H. Brauer* to the Northern Illinois District of the Missouri Synod. 42 pages. Price, 17 cts.

6. *The Book of the Prophet Jonah*. A doctrinal paper submitted by *Rev. H. Speckhard* to the Michigan District of the Missouri Synod. 58 pages. Price, 15 cts.

7. *Luther's Morals*. By *Rev. J. H. Hartenberger*. This is a reprint from the last issue of the THEOLOGICAL QUARTERLY, which makes it easy for our ministers and laymen to reply to current charges of the viler element in Romanism. Price, 10 cts.

COUNTRY SERMONS. *New Series*. Vol. V: Sermons on Free Texts for the Entire Church Year. By *Rev. F. Kuegele*. New Edition, Revised and Enlarged. Augusta Publishing Co. Crimora, Va. 1910. XII and 640 pages. Price, \$2.25.

Thirteen years ago it was the reviewer's privilege to announce the second volume of the series of *Country Sermons* to the readers of the *Lutheran Witness* (vol. XV, p. 119). The entire series is now before us in one solid volume. A few changes have been made; *e. g.*, the thirteen funeral sermons appended to vol. 2 of the first edition have been dropped, and six new sermons (II. and VI. after Epiph., XXVI. and XXVII. after Trin., Mission Festival and Thanksgiving Day) have been added, and the pruning and correcting hand of the author is in evidence here and there throughout the volume. But all these changes merely serve to enhance the value of the book, and the high regard expressed for its merits at the time of its first appearance must be repeated now that the aged author probably issues his work for the last time *manu propria*. "Pastor Kuegele's sermons all betray careful, searching study of his text with its context and parallels. They likewise evince an intimate pastoral knowledge of the needs of an Evangelical Lutheran congregation in general and of his own congregation in particular. He has observed the people, and has learned their needs; and he has called upon the Lord to supply those needs. The result of this double preparation for his sermons Pastor Kuegele produces before his congregation under the constant surveillance of Christian grace and tact, pastoral wisdom, and rugged common sense. He compels his hearers to enter with him into that

Word of God which he happens to expound; he does not dodge a difficulty, whether in the language or the doctrine of the text; he carefully distinguishes where a text admits of various meanings; his illustrations occur at the proper place and are preferably Scriptural; in not a few instances the words immediately preceding them foreshadow them; he scouts far-fetched explanations; and if there is anything labored about these sermons, it is to the end of becoming plain, quite plain, to his hearers."

Seventy-two texts, twenty-four of them from the Old Testament, are treated in this volume. Each text is designed for use on a particular Sunday of the ecclesiastical year. The choice of these texts and their treatment is in a large measure determined by the pericopal system of the Lutheran Church. The text for the First Sunday in Advent (Ps. 118, 24—29) reiterates the Hosanna of the Gospel in Matthew. The second coming of Christ is treated on the Second Sunday in Advent, no doubt, because the regular Gospel for that Sunday from Luke suggested that theme. The "voice in the wilderness" to which the Gospel for the Third Sunday in Advent refers is treated from the Old Testament original for that Sunday. And so on. Of course, there are departures from the beaten path of pericopal thought, and there are instances in which the connection between the author's leading thought with the dominant idea of the respective pericope is less apparent. But, in general, the book may be said to be a good collateral volume to the pericopal system.

Thirty of the author's texts are proof-texts from our Catechism, or parts of proof-texts. If a comparison of the texts with Dietrich's Catechism were instituted, the percentage would be still greater. This shows that the present volume of "free texts" does not intend to practice that freedom which is hardly distinguishable from caprice. Not startling, fanciful, quaint texts, not the oddities of Scripture, but those texts have attracted the author which express some fundamental truth of Christianity. We have been at some pains testing the sufficiency of this volume as a compend of saving truth, and we find that not a single one of the basic truths of our faith has been passed over. The entire Catechism can be preached from the author's array of free texts. This is a very great merit.

We have in this volume two sermons on the Bible: 2 Tim. 3, 15—17: "The Bible Is Proved God's Own Word: 1. by its origin, 2. by its contents, 3. by its effects;" John 5, 39: "The Scriptures as Testifying of Jesus Christ: 1. Christ is the sun and center of the Bible; 2. we must read to find Christ in it."—The mysteries of the Divine Being are set forth on Trinity Sunday from Ps. 36, 6—9: "God's Wonderful and Good Providence: 1. We are to admire, 2. we

are to trust it."—The person, and the personal aspects, of the God-man are studied, always with an eye to the ends of salvation, from John 5, 26. 27: "The Communication of Attributes in the Person of Christ. 1. What the communication of attributes is; 2. what assurance of salvation it gives."—The God-man in His two states of humiliation and exaltation is portrayed from 2 Cor. 5, 21: "Jesus of Nazareth Judged and Condemned. 1. The justice of the sentence; 2. the object for which it was pronounced;" Rom. 8, 31—34: "Christ's Resurrection the Conclusive Evidence of God's Reconciliation to Man: 1. How it proves that God is reconciled to us; 2. how we are now reconciled to God;" Acts 4, 5—20: "The Certainty of Christ's Resurrection: 1. Some external or historic evidence; 2. the internal evidence contained in the deed itself;" Eph. 4, 7—10: "Christ's Ascension to Heaven: 1. What it signifies; 2. whereto and for what purpose He ascended up."—The official functions of Christ are treated from John 1, 29—36: "The Manifestation of Christ by John the Baptist: 1. He proves the identity of Christ; 2. he teaches what the office of Jesus Christ is;" Jer. 23, 5. 6: "In Jesus Christ Jehovah Is Made Man to be Our Righteousness: 1. He is our Brother and our God; 2. He is made unto us Righteousness;" 1 Tim. 1, 15—17: "The Object of the Incarnation of God's Son: 1. He is come to save sinners; 2. this is a faithful and acceptable saying;" Gal. 2, 20: "Jesus Christ Is the Life of His People: 1. How He is the life of His people; 2. by what He dwells in them;" Hebr. 4, 15. 16: "Jesus Christ a High Priest whose Compassion We can Cheerfully Trust: 1. That He can have compassion, because He was tempted like as we are; 2. that He will have compassion, because it is His office to give grace to help in time of need;" 1 Tim. 2, 5. 6: "Jesus Christ Our Ransom: 1. The necessity of a ransom; 2. what the ransom is; 3. for whom the ransom has been paid;" 1 John 2, 1. 2: "Christ Our Advocate with the Father: 1. What His advocacy is; 2. how comforting it is;" Ezek. 34, 15. 16: "The Good Shepherd Providing for His Flock: 1. What He does for the whole flock in general; 2. how He deals with His own singly."

By far the greater portion of the sermons in this stout volume deal with soteriological subjects. In three sermons (III. Advent, XXIV. and XXVII. p. Trin.) distinctly eschatological themes are treated. Lack of space forbids us to exhibit the strong points of these sections in detail.

Pastor Kuegele's sermons have performed a great service to our Church in a critical period. But their efficiency will continue as long as the Church is engaged in her divine calling of the saving of souls by explaining and applying the Word, which alone saves men.

BIBLE HISTORY. Comprising the Old and the New Testament. Compiled for use of the youth of the English Lutheran Church. Published by American Lutheran Publication Board. Pittsburg, Pa. 161 pages. Price, 35 cts. per copy, postpaid; less in lots.

Eighty Bible stories, 35 from the Old (Creation to Daniel), and 45 from the New Testament (Zacharias to Conversion of Paul), are here offered. In the text of the stories the words of the Bible are retained, and the Bible references are given at the head of each story. The stories are carefully divided into sections, and by the use of italics, as in the first story, the leading matter of a paragraph, or an important saying is made prominent to the eye. Nearly every story is accompanied by one or more illustrations, taken from the works of acknowledged masters. (The nimbus on page 22 should be removed.) This feature gives to the book a lively appearance, and will, no doubt, fascinate the children and incite them to an eager study of the text. The doctrinal or practical facts which each story teaches are summed up at the end, either in the form of a striking Bible text, or, in most cases, by a brief reference to pertinent parts of Luther's Small Catechism. The conclusion is formed by a stanza from some standard hymn. — As a textbook for the beginner's study of Bible History this handy volume possesses great merit. The selections are made with good judgment, both as regards quantity and quality, and the many divisions, indicated, moreover, by lateral headings in bold type, facilitate progress in easy stages, and will prove a boon to feeble learners. The book is a delight to the child's eye and heart, gives point and direction to the teacher's efforts, and greatly lessens his labors of inculcating and explaining the stories.

HOMILETISCHES REALLEXIKON NEBST INDEX RERUM von *E. Eckhardt*. Vol. C—F, pp. 467—926; and vol. G, pp. 927—1458. Blair, Nebr. 1908—09. Price, \$2.40 per vol.

These two volumes of the meritorious undertaking of Rev. Eckhardt, which we have noticed before, carry the work forward to the end of letter G. The last volume contains a digest of the vast material that has accumulated under such titles as "Gerechtigkeit," "Glaube," "Gnadenwahl." Increasing use has convinced us of the great usefulness and serviceableness of this work, and we rejoice to learn that the undertaking is now financially secured, and the remaining volumes (4—6) will appear in rapid succession.

LUTHER ALBUM. A Precursor of the Fourth Centennial Celebration in Memory of the Nailing of the 95 Theses upon the Door of the Castle Church at Wittenberg on October 31, 1517, by Dr. Martin Luther. Illustrated by 24 engravings of *Wm. Weimar's* celebrated paintings of Luther's life and a new Portrait, Dr. Martin Luther, by *K. Astfalck*.—Submitted by *Martin S. Sommer*. Louis Lange Publishing Co., St. Louis, Mo. 1910. Price, \$1.00.—The same work with German text by *Rev. Augustus Lange*.

The exhaustive titles of these splendid publications of the Lange Press sufficiently describe their contents and scope. The printer and binder have done their best to produce an attractive volume. And the authors, the Revs. Lange and Sommer, have told, each along the same main lines, but each independently of the other, the Life of the Reformer in a manner that combines copious information with lively movement. It is a pleasure to read these volumes. They will be in great demand at the coming Festival of the Reformation and still more at the Centennial seven years hence.

HANDBUECHLEIN ZUR VORBEREITUNG AUF DEN TOD. Von *Martin Moller*. With Preface by *O. Willkomm*. Published by Johannes Herrmann in Zwickau, Saxony. VI and 206 pages. Price, 50 cts.

The author is probably unknown to our circle of readers. To introduce him, we transfer from the appreciative Preface of Rev. Willkomm the following biographical data: Martin Moller, a peasant's son, was born 1547 at Leissnitz, near Wittenberg, studied at the latter place, became precentor at Loewenberg in Silesia, in 1568, pastor at Kesselsdorf, near Loewenberg, in 1572, diaconus at the latter place in the same year, pastor at Sprottau, in 1575, pastor primarius at Goerlitz, in 1600, lost his eyesight in 1605, but continued the active discharge of his pastoral duties until his death on March 2, 1606. He was the author of the well-known "Praxis evangelica," a practical and popular exposition of the pericopal texts for Sundays and festival days.

He endeared himself to his generation, and to all generations of men since, especially by his book on "the holy art of dying." A book

of this kind can never outgrow its usefulness in the Christian Church. The sad subject with which it deals is an ever-present reality with mortal men. And Moller is a most excellent companion to the dying Christian.

The theology which was able to produce this book three hundred years ago would obtain scant recognition in our day among "theologians." It is not scientific. Nor is death, nor hell, nor paradise. But this book exhibits that practical habitude of the mind to understand and to apply to men in their sorest needs the correction and comfort of the divine Word, which only God can bestow and which alone constitutes a person a theologian. Rev. Willkomm has done well to republish this famous book.

LUTHERWORTE UND BEKENNTNISSTELLEN ALS NACHKLANG ZUR CALVINFEIER. By *M. Willkomm*. Same publisher as above. 56 pages. Price, M. .30.

The Calvin quadricentennial appears to have been a triumph of the forces of syncretism in the Protestant churches of Germany. Over and against the unionistic tendencies which are rampant in our day, this collection of "Words of Luther" and "Statements of the Confessions" restates the old grounds of division between Lutheranism and Calvinism, and shows that the gulf which yawns between the two oldest Protestant church-bodies cannot be bridged by mere sentiment. The fortunes of the Church, which is the abode of truth and sincerity, are ill served by an attitude of indifference, and by such reckless charity as is usually advocated by the men who clamor for peace at any price, even at the price of sacred principles. This brochure is a very opportune publication. May it open many eyes!

DER EV.-LUTH. HAUSFREUND. By *O. Willkomm*. Same publisher as above. Price, 15 cts.

This Christian almanac for 1911 is distinguished chiefly by a cordially written memoir of the sainted Dr. Walther, the centenary of whose birth occurs October 25th of the coming year.

For want of space we must content ourselves with a brief mention of the following tracts and pamphlets:—

Why Should a Christian Partake of the Lord's Supper Frequently? By Rev. John H. C. Fritz. (Publisher: Rudolph Volkening,

St. Louis. Price, 12 copies for 30 cts.) — The four reasons here given are convincing, and that a tract on this subject has a mission to perform in the Church there can be no doubt.

Geschichte der Ev.-Luth. Stadt- und Kindermission in Illinois, hauptsachlich in Chicago. Herausgegeben von der Kommission fuer Stadtmission. 1910. — This booklet tells what Chicago Lutherans are doing to reclaim prodigals, and to aid the poor, destitute, and forsaken. The chapter on the Children's Home and the Juvenile Court Home are very affecting.

The Council of Uppsala. By N. Forsander. — This most interesting brochure of Dr. Forsander of Augustana Seminary describes stirring events of three and a half centuries ago, when Lutheranism carried the day against Catholicism, Jesuitism, etc., in the mother-church in Sweden.

Officielt Referat oefver Foerhandlingarna vid Iowa Konferensens af Ev. Luth. Augustana-Synodens Fyrtioandra arsmoete. — Contains business transactions of the fortieth convention of the Iowa District of the Augustana Synod, and statistics.

Present-Day Lutheranism. By Prof. Frank P. Manhart. Philadelphia, Pa. The Lutheran Publication Society. — In 72 theses the author expatiates on the divided condition of the Lutheran Church in America, the causes for these divisions, as he views them, — and despises them, — and the means to unite or federate the Lutheran forces of America and of the world, if possible, by 1917.

The Evangelical Congregation. A Synodical Address by G. U. Wenner. New York. — This able address contains well-deserved strictures on the departure from the original Lutheran idea of what the congregation and its divine authority and mission is. The Missourians are credited with being the only people "among whom the congregational system has been consistently and well developed."

The Return from the Captivity. A Sermon Preached in Recognition of the Two Hundredth Anniversary of the Palatine Immigration. By George U. Wenner. Lutheran Publication Society, Philadelphia, Pa. — This historical address carries us back to the planting of the Lutheran Church in the State of New York, in the days of Joshua Kocherthal, relates the sad state of the Church in the period which followed the Palatine Immigration, and appreciably distinguishes between the spirit of Lutheran and Reformed teaching.

Supplementary Discoveries Showing Aryo-Semitic Cognation. By Allison Emery Drake. Denver and London. 1910.