

CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL MONTHLY

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Theology and the Human Spirit

Ludwig Ernst Fuerbringer Hall, the new home of the library of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri, is named after the third president of Concordia Seminary. It is a fitting memorial to his lifelong (†1947) interest in and promotion of theological study and research. The building was dedicated to the glory of God and the spread of the Gospel in a service of worship on the afternoon of the Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity, September 30, 1962. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Dr. Otto P. Kretzmann, President of Valparaiso University, on the topic "Relevant Theology."

Three addresses during the following week stressed various aspects of the importance of the library in theological education. We are happy to have them reach a wider audience through this issue of the CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL MONTHLY.

The pastor preaches in a world made up of very human people. For that reason theology dare not lose contact with letters and the arts. If the Gospel is truly the one integrating factor in a world characterized by greater and greater fragmentation of knowledge and consequent loss of a sense of direction, then the theological library and the Christian who uses it must make clear the relation of the Gospel to all that man is, has done, and under God can be. This function of the seminary library was stressed in two different addresses. Pastor Carl A. Eberhard of Louisville, Kentucky, to whom the Seminary faculty awarded the degree of Doctor of Divinity honoris causa at this occasion, delivered a paper on "The Pastor and Books," in which he sketched the importance of wide acquaintance with nontheological literature for the parish

pastor. Professor Jaroslav Jan Pelikan of Yale University Divinity School pointed out the basic relation of Christian theology to the general understanding of Western culture and its survival in a technological age.

A second aspect of the theological library is its truly ecumenical character. On its shelves heretics and orthodox theologians face one another. Eastern and Western Christendom contribute their liturgy and history. Theologians of all languages and cultures are available. Dr. Pelikan stressed the proper use of such divergent materials in his lecture on the nature of theological discourse. His words were a reminder that the library of a seminary assures the constituency of its supporting church that its theologians will live and be trained in living contact with both the present and the heritage of the church's past.

The decade and a half since the close of the Second World War has seen a renaissance of the library in the educational system of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Every terminal school and many of its preparatory schools have dedicated libraries in that period. Ludwig E. Fuerbringer Hall is only the most recent monument to this recognition of the importance of broad and extensive library resources in the training of ever more excellent ministers. We pray that Ludwig E. Fuerbringer Hall will serve well the purpose for which it was dedicated. EDGAR M. KRENTZ

The fourth article seeks to establish in what form and style music can best serve as a handmaid of the Gospel for modern man.—EDITOR