

# CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL MONTHLY

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Book Review

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# Editorial ✠

## *"BUT THERE'S NO TIME!"*

This issue is our second book-emphasis number (see July-August, 1965). At the request of many pastors and church boards we are presenting a larger number of reviews of current books in important areas in this issue. It is hoped that the summer months may provide the parish pastor with some time to catch up on his reading.

The articles by Martin Marty and Richard Jeske underscore the importance of continuing study. In increasing number, pastors are asking their congregations to understand that time spent in reading is one of the irreducible elements in the daily schedule. And congregations, increasingly aware of the knowledge explosion, are encouraging their pastors to read. We read in a recent bulletin of the American Association of Theological Schools that a course taken 10 years ago may have already been made obsolete by new discoveries. This bulletin of course was talking especially about courses in theology.

In rapidly increasing number, congregations are also encouraging their pastors to go back to school. Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, is meeting with very favorable response to its program designed to encourage every graduate to return for study during his 10th summer after graduation. The reaction of men at summer school is always the same: "Just what I needed!" "An invigorating shot in the arm for a jaded parish pastor."

It's interesting to study the book review section of this journal at various stages in its history. This section almost provides a graph of the increasing cultural assimilation and theological involvement of the Synod. Such a study would also show that it is proper today for reviewers to express their disagreement in gentler terms. When the fashion was to speak bluntly, our reviewers did so. Today's reviewers evidently find themselves more frequently in agreement with current theological thought than a former generation did, although the critical note is sounded in many of the reviews.

HERBERT T. MAYER