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## THE MISSOURI SYNOD AND DIETRICH'S CATECHISM.

The late Intersynodical Conference which was convened at Fort Wayne during August, 1905, had met for the stated purpose of examining the proof-texts of Scripture bearing on the doctrine of election. As frequently happens during discussions of this nature, matters not really essential to the business in hand were touched upon by the speakers. Thus the Fort Wayne Convention was advised that the Missouri Synod had adopted a new catechism for use in its churches and schools in lieu of Conrad Dietrich's Catechism, formerly the authorized catechism of the Missouri Synod; and that this action was tantamount to a repudiation of Missouri's former teaching on the subject of election, inasmuch as Dietrich's Catechism taught the doctrine which the Missouri Synod at present rejects. We quote the information as it was communicated to the public through church papers at the time.

Dietrich's Catechism was referred to in order to prove that the opponents of Missouri stand where this Synod (Missouri) stood formerly. Dietrich's edition of Luther's Smaller Catechism was for years published by the Missouri Synod and used in its churches. This catechism teaches on election: The grounds for election are threefold, to-wit: 1. the unfathomable goodness and mercy of God; 2. the unlimited atonement proclaimed in the Gospel; 3. the abiding saving faith in Christ. This catechism has for some years been replaced by another edition which, it is claimed, is in greater harmony with the present teaching of the Synod.

(Dr. Nicum in report to *The Lutheran* of August 31, 1905, regarding the Intersynodical Conference held at Fort Wayne, Ind., Aug. 8—10.)

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## BOOK REVIEW.

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LUTHERAN WITNESS TRACT No. 13: *Opinions on Secret Societies*, collected and arranged by Wm. Dallmann. Second edition, revised. American Lutheran Publication Board, 2103-5 S. Sidney St., Pittsburg, Pa. Price per copy, 5 cts.; dozen, 50 cts.; hundred, \$3.50.

This tract contains 125 opinions, 35 of preachers of various denominations, 25 of college presidents, professors, etc., 22 of editors, the remainder of statesmen. The tract is useful chiefly in meeting the charge that the "Missouri Lutherans" are alone in their opposition to secret oathbound societies of a religious character. We should not be afraid to maintain this opposition alone, in the consciousness of a higher Power being allied to our humble testimony; but we are naturally pleased to have company on this ground, and should be still more pleased if the company were still more congenial and agreed with us, especially on the great questions which still divide the Church. — We join the author in his prayer: "May these testimonies confirm us in our stand, keep back those that would enter, and draw out those that are in, such societies."

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THE PRECIOUS AND SACRED WRITINGS OF MARTIN LUTHER. Based on the Kaiser Chronological Edition, with Reference to the Erlangen and Walch Editions. Vol. XI: *Luther's Church Postil*, Gospels for Epiphany, Lent, and Easter Sermons. By Prof. John Nicholas Lenker, D. D. Vol. II. Second Thousand. Lutherans in All Lands Co., Minneapolis, Minn. 1906. 16 and 398 pp.

This volume arrived too late for review in our present issue, and will be discussed in our October issue.