

## Book Briefs

*Man in God's Milieu*, by Bastian Kruithof. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1968. 144 pages. \$1.95 (paperback).

This readable book treats the relationship between the Christian faith and our increasingly secularistic culture. Some chapter headings: Revelation, The Biblical View of God and Man, The Problem of Evil, The Church in a Changing Age, and Morals Old and New.

*Crisis in Lutheran Theology*, Vol. II, an Anthology, edited by John Warwick Montgomery. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1967. 196 pages. \$3.00 (paperback).

The essays here, as in volume I, seek to point up the extreme peril of the current theological situation, particularly with reference to the validity and relevance of historic Lutheranism versus its contemporary rivals.

*A Commentary on the Confession of 1967 and An Introduction to the Book of Confessions*, by Edward A. Dowey, Jr. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1968. 275 pages. \$2.65 (paperback).

The first half of the book contains a paragraph-by-paragraph explanation of the meaning of the Confession of 1967, with explanations of changes from traditional formulations. The second half discusses, among other things, the Scots Confession, Heidelberg Catechism, Westminster Confession, Shorter Catechism, and "Sacraments in the Reformed Confessions."

*Creation and Evolution*, by D. C. Spanner. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1968. 61 pages. 95¢ (paperback).

The author takes a frankly conservative position on the Genesis account of creation as a genuinely historical and prophetic message.

### *Book Briefs*

Provocative reading from the pen of a Reader in Botany at London University.

*The Dynamics of School Integration*, by Donald H. Bouma and James Hoffman. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1968. 158 pages. \$3.95, cloth; \$2.25, paperback.

The setting for the case-study aspects of this multi-level approach to school integration is called Community X, a middle-sized Midwest city noted for its "typicalness." This is the record of attempts to achieve a high-quality integrated education. The authors analyze reasons why this community undertook the project; they describe citizen reaction and the effectiveness of the program thus far. An interesting discussion shows how slum-school education affects the self-concept of the black student. An extensive bibliography and complete index enhance the value of the book.

*Meditations for Communion Services*, by W. L. Lumpkin. Nashville: Abingdon, 1968. 111 pages. \$2.95.

The twenty-four brief meditations cover three parts of the subject: the names given to the Supper, its several meanings, and the matter of participation. In seeking to enlarge our understanding and appreciation of Communion, the author furnishes rich historical insights and views his subject in terms of the Christian Church as a whole.

*The Power of Positive Evangelism*, by J. R. Bisagno. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1968. 64 pages. \$1.50 (paperback).

Practical and inspirational help for conducting revivals. Gives information on preaching, invitation, music, visitation, promotion, and prayer.

*Crisis and Creed*, by O. T. Miles. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1968. 82 pages. \$1.65 (paperback).

Discusses in layman's language key passages in a contemporary creed—the United Presbyterian Confession of 1967—with a view to helping Christians respond to this contemporary statement of faith.

*Cruden's Compact Concordance*, Based on the Famous Work of Alexander Cruden, edited by John Earle. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1968. 563 pages. \$3.95.

Here is the first adequate concordance in compact form. Compared with editions of the standard volume, key words in bold type appear not only at the top of each page but also within the pages. The body type is small but more legible. Omitted is the Concordance to the Apocrypha and the Compendium of the Bible. The student will find this sturdily-bound version a real boon.

*Floral Art in the Church*, by Jack Inman (photography by Richard Lee). Nashville: Abingdon, 1968. 192 pages. \$6.95.

This book deals with the creative use of flowers and symbolism throughout the Christian year. The author, an authority in the field, shows how every church can add dramatically to the beauty and impact of floral arrangements as part of the worship setting. Included are eighty-four illustrations of arrangements together with description and symbolic meaning. In following the sequence of the church year the author provides for variations among different church groups.

*The Infallible Word*, A Symposium, by Members of the Faculty of Westminster Theological Seminary. Philadelphia: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1967. 308 pages. \$3.95 (paperback).

A reprint of a volume that at the time of its first publication (1946) rendered yeoman service in strengthening the faith of evangelicals throughout the world. The arguments presented are as cogent as ever, and as urgently relevant now as at the time of this first printing. Among the writers are John Murray, Edward J. Young, N. C. Stonehouse, Cornelius Van Til, and Paul Wooley (Editor). Martin Lloyd-Jones writes a foreword to the new edition.

*The Lord's Prayer, in Its Biblical Setting*, by Charles M. Laymon. Nashville: Abingdon, 1968. 160 pages. \$3.50.

This fresh, meaningful interpretation grows largely out of the author's approach to his subject. Jesus is represented as following an age-

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long tradition of conversation with God, from the prayers of the Old Testament patriarchs to those in the synagogues of His own day. Each part of the Prayer is seen in the light of its full biblical context. The whole presents a vivid portrait of the mind and person of Christ which speaks to our deepest longings.

*Death and Contemporary Man: The Crisis of Terminal Illness*, by Carl G. Carlozzi. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1968. 79 pages. \$1.45 (paperback).

*When Death Takes a Father*, by Gladys Kooiman. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1968. 171 pages. \$3.95.

The first book seeks to understand the behavior and attitudes of those faced with the imminence of death, their own or that of someone close to them. It tries also to comprehend better the interrelated needs of patient, family, pastor, and physician in a situation where death appears inevitable.

The second book, "born of the vortex of a most painful experience," is a first-person account which lays bare the deepest emotions. What happens when death intrudes upon a family circle and leaves a widow and eight children? This is the story of one woman's determination and courage.

*The Local Church Looks to the Future*, by Lyle E. Schaller. Nashville: Abingdon, 1968. 240 pages. \$1.75 (paperback).

A specialist in problems and procedures of church planning presents a wealth of information that will prove invaluable to churches contemplating expansion. Here are discussed such matters as guidance in arriving at basic objectives, in building, in planning for worship, in establishing rapport with other denominations, and in carrying out the future mission of the church to its fullest.

*A History of Preaching*, Vol. I, by Edwin C. Dargan. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1968. 577 pages. \$3.95 (paperback).

A reprint of the most comprehensive work in its field. The period covered is from the Apostolic Fathers to the Great Reformers (A.D. 70-1572). Originally this period was covered in two volumes. Baker Book

House performs a much needed service to ministers and theological students by making this work available in its present economical form.

*History of the Reformation*, by John P. Dolan. New York: Desclee Company, 1965. 417 pages. \$6.75.

In this volume the Roman Catholic author John Dolan lays aside the traditional divisive, polemical attitude which has characterized much Reformation study and gives us an "objective" history which lucidly presents the background of the men and the basic issues. This book will serve both the cause of historical honesty and the cause of Christian ecumenism. Too often books on the Reformation have been shaped more by the author's theological presuppositions than by the historical facts. The present work is the result of scholarly research done by Protestant, Roman Catholic, and secular scholars. The volume provides at once a general (if not the best) introduction to the Reformation and stimulating perspectives for the specialist in Reformation studies.

*Finney's Lectures on Theology*, by Charles G. Finney. Minneapolis: Bethany Fellowship, Inc., 1968. 248 pages. \$3.95.

This volume has been out of print for decades, but is a worthy contribution to the literature which brings us in touch with the mind and spirit of the greatest revivalist of the nineteenth century. The volume first appeared in 1840 under the title, *Skeletons of a Course of Theological Lectures*. It consisted of the outlines from which Finney taught his classes at Oberlin College, where he was professor of theology from 1835 to 1875. This is a welcome reprint.

*Proselytism in the Talmudic Period*, by B. J. Bamberger. New York: Ktav Publishing House, Inc., 1968. 310 pages. \$8.95.

This volume, first published in 1939, contains a new introduction and other new materials by the author. Chapter titles include: "Reception of Converts," "Status of Converts in Jewish Law," "Semi-proselytes and Quasi-proselytes," and "The Proselytes Mentioned in Rabbinic Literature." A comprehensive, interesting, and scholarly treatment of a little-known subject.