

The **PRESBYTERIAN** *Journal*

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S.S. LESSON AND YOUTH PROGRAM FOR DECEMBER 25
CIRCLE BIBLE STUDY FOR JANUARY

MAKING THE WORD RELEVANT ?

God's Word is life itself. For a world that lies in death, the Word is the resurrection and the life. There can be no question of our making the Word relevant to the world. The Word has already made itself relevant to the world: He did so when He created this world and reconciled it to Himself . . . It is absurd for us to worry as we do about 'making the Bible relevant.' The Word of God is far more relevant than we could ever be, and if we will be obedient to the Bible, truly obedient, then we shall find ourselves more deeply involved in the lives of our people and in the 'situation' than we ever were when we were anxious to be 'relevant.' God's Word is devastatingly relevant when it is truly preached and heard.

—Paul M. van Buren in
Anglican Theological Review, cited by D .Ritschl in
A THEOLOGY OF PROCLAMATION
John Knox Press, 1960

ACROSS the EDITOR'S DESK

After a search lasting two years and three months, a search which included many meetings, many interviews, much prayer and almost incredible pressure from several quarters — as the whole Church seemed to recognize the immense importance of this decision — a new Executive Secretary of the Board of World Missions has been elected (see story, p. 4). A great many people know that when Dr. T. Watson Street was first nominated a member of the Board, in 1954, we publicly opposed the nomination on the floor of the General Assembly. For this reason, as well as for others, we want to say that we are now persuaded the Board could not have made a happier choice at this crucial stage in the history of our Missions work than that of Dr. T. Watson Street. He is a man who believes in the necessity of a clear evangelical approach in evangelism and also one who respects and supports the positive elements in the unique Missions policy of our denomination. Our prayers will be with him as he begins his work.

A couple of weeks ago we mentioned a consultation on the dance, held at the Interchurch Center in New York under the auspices of the Department of Worship and the Arts of the National Council of Churches. A more detailed report of the program has now reached us. Dances performed before the churchmen and the professional dancers assembled to discuss ways in which the dance can be used as a part of religious worship included "Eli, Eli," the "116th Psalm," and "Katak," the story of Lord Krishna, one of the gods of India. Among the speakers was famed dancer Ruth St. Denis, who told the assembly, "I believe that God has raised up the dance in America to bring man back to himself." Real gone, that man.

If a man is going to make a success of the Christian life, either as a layman or as a preacher, he's got to have hold of a hot line in his hand, with the other end connected up to real Power. — Overheard.

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THE CHURCH'S WITNESS TO THE WORLD, by Peter Y. DeJong. Pella Publ. Co., Pella, Iowa. 303 pp. \$8.95.

In commemoration of the four hundredth anniversary of the Belgic Confession, this strong Reformed pastor here presents an historical introduction to and exposition of the first part of Guido de Bres' great confession. The writer deals with matters of revelation, Scripture, God, the Trinity, creation, providence, sin, and original sin. The treatment of the other articles may be anticipated in a later volume. We heartily commend this careful study by one who is at home in the historical situation out of which the Confession issued and in the world of our day. Here is a good steward bringing out of his storehouse things new and old.

If one may be permitted a detailed suggestion concerning an otherwise excellent treatment it would be: On page 16 the author affirms that the Church bears testimony throughout the ages to her new life; but on page 34 he shows that Guido de Bres in the Belgic Confession directs attention to the duty of witnessing to the Saviour before men. Here, in the opinion of the reviewer, the old is better. Among other things, this study shows the strong opposition of Guido de Bres and the Belgic Confession to the Anabaptist positions in the land from which the revolutionaries of Munster came.

—Wm. C. Robinson, Th.D.
Decatur, Ga.

THE VOCABULARY OF THE CHURCH, by Richard C. White. The Macmillan Company, New York. 178 pp. \$3.50.

This is a somewhat unique book. It contains the accepted American pronunciation of over 10,000 words currently in use in Church circles. It includes Biblical names and terms, theological jargon, persons and places of importance in Church history, and some terms of a philosophical, musical, psychological or sociological nature, if they have usage in religious fields.

The attempt has been made to present that usage which is most general-

ly accepted in this country. This means that some names, for example, are Anglicized, others are not, depending on what is generally done by scholars, teachers, etc. A few examples will show the system used: the pronunciation of Presbyterian is given as "prez buh TIR i uhn"; Israel, "IZ ray el or i uhl"; Berkouwer, "BUR kow er." Note that diacritical marks, as used in most dictionaries, are dispensed with in favor of phonetic spelling.

—Rev. Loren V. Watson
Appalachia, Va.

THE GROWING MINISTER, by Andrew W. Blackwood. Abingdon Press, Nashville, Tenn. 192 pp., \$3.00.

During the last decade Dr. Blackwood has met with groups of clergymen in conferences concerning the work of the minister and this book is the outgrowth of his findings at such conferences. With a true sensitivity to the needs of ministers, Dr. Blackwood has drawn upon the Scriptures, the recorded experiences of ministers throughout church history and his own long experience in teaching ministers to contribute in this volume information and inspiration that will by highly advantageous to the minister who wants to grow.

In the first half of the book Dr. Blackwood points to the ideals toward which the growing minister should strive. In the latter half he discusses the various obstacles to growth encountered in daily living.

This volume is permeated with valuable Biblical insights and excellent common sense. The author writes with a fine sense of balance. For example, he states, "Organization has its place. So has corporate activity. But insofar as I have been able to judge from experience and observation, God promotes a man's spirituality more surely by leading him to engage in personal work than by letting him attend meetings that seem endless. Why devote half a day to learning what one can get from the Book in half an hour? Such a time of mental repose will seem all the more welcome if a minister has been engaged in quiet talks with unsaved and unchurched neighbors and friends, one by one. Only at the risk of anemia in his own soul can the pastor delegate all of this work to others."

For many years this reviewer has been indebted to Dr. Blackwood for

his teaching ministry and also his literary ministry. He is especially grateful for his recent work on "The Growing Minister." It is a marvellous challenge to press on in our high calling in Christ Jesus.

—John R. Richardson, D.D.
Atlanta, Ga.

BOOK BRIEFS

CONFIDENTIALLY, GIRLS, by Elizabeth Pistole. Warner Press, Anderson, Ind. (Paper) 96 pp. \$1.25.

CONFIDENTIALLY FELLOWS, by Herbert A. Streeter. Warner Press, Anderson, Ind. (Paper) 96 pp. \$1.25.

These books are teen-age advice books written for thirteen to sixteen year olds. They are attractively prepared, appealingly edited: "Let's Dig Those Dangers," "It's Corny Without Courtesy," "Rules For Tobacco Road," "It's Smart To Be Smart." The Christian perspective is strong throughout. Highly recommended.

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS, TEEN-AGER!, by Margaret J. Anderson. Moody Press, Chicago. 96 pp., \$2.00. A collection of informal, well-written devotional messages to young people. Each about two pages long, the messages are similar to "letters" written on various themes. A good gift suggestion.

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