
Shorter Reviews and Notices

The Bible Speaks to You, by ROBERT MCAFEE BROWN. The Westminster Press, Philadelphia, 1955. 320 pp. \$3.00.

THIS book is worth anybody's reading, although it seems to be especially designed for the college student or alert late teen-ager. Dr. Brown has served as Navy chaplain and college teacher, and his use of the language of young men is natural, unforced, and most effective. His style and point of view reflect C. S. Lewis, without Lewis' sometimes confusing medievalism.

The scheme of the book is ambitious, no less than a survey of biblical theology and ethics in popular form. Like Milton, the author proposes to "assert eternal Providence and justify the ways of God to men." That such a task is acceptably accomplished constitutes a real feat of writing.

The first section deals with biblical criticism and introduction: what the Bible is, how it came to be, and its translations. Then, in fresh yet sound manner, the major problems of biblical theology are set forth: Revelation, Creation, Judgment and Redemption, the Trinity, Predestination and Election, Miracles, the Person of Christ, Regeneration, the Cross, the problem of Evil. Next, a section is devoted to personal religion: "Who am I?" and "How can I be changed?"

Following that, Dr. Brown boldly attacks the eschatological question, and succeeds brilliantly in setting forth a satisfying Christian answer to death, immortality, heaven and hell, in understandable, current terms. This part alone is worth the price of the book.

The final major section deals with Christian ethics against the background of present experience. The author treats moral problems realistically and understandingly, and gives a sound biblical answer to each. A brief, most pertinent chapter on "Mystery and Meaning" closes the book. B. F. HALL

The Growth of the Pentateuch, by IMMANUEL LEWY. Bookman Associates, New York, 1955. 288 pp. \$4.50.

THIS book is a defense and further elaboration of the approach to the problem of the Pentateuch set forth in the author's earlier volume, *The Birth of the Bible*. It moves from the conviction, widely shared today, that the conventional documentary analysis associated with the name of Wellhausen no longer does justice to the data as known and is in need of radical revision. Whether the new approach set forth here will carry more conviction, or less, than the conventional one, the reader must judge. But it is, to say the least, highly original.