

RECENT LITURGICAL LITERATURE

The new liturgical dictionary promised some time ago has now appeared and it has been worth waiting for – *A Dictionary of Liturgy and Worship* (S.C.M. Press, 1972, 385 pages, £4.75 net). The Editor is Professor J. G. Davies, who was one of the editors of the small *Select Liturgical Lexicon*, published in 1965 by the Lutterworth Press in the series 'Ecumenical Studies in Worship'. This new Dictionary is a much larger and more comprehensive work. Many of the subjects are treated with reference to the different denominations, the articles being normally written by members of the denomination concerned. To take one example, 'Baptism' is dealt with under the following sections – Patristic, Orthodox, Medieval and Roman Catholic, Anglican, Baptist, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Congregational, Jehovah's Witnesses, Lutheran, Methodist, Old Catholic, Pentecostal, Plymouth Brethren, Reformed, and Seventh-Day Adventist, followed by a very helpful though short bibliography. There is similar treatment for many other subjects, such as Burial, Liturgical Books, Liturgies, Matrimony and Ordination. There are also many articles of a more general nature, for instance, 'Experimental Forms of Worship' and 'Secularization and Worship'. There are general estimates of worship-ideas, as Anglican, Congregational, Lutheran and Reformed Worship. There are sixty-four names in the list of contributors, and there are forty-three plates and twenty-seven figures. It should be noted that the Dictionary does not confine itself to Christian forms of worship. Thus there are articles on Buddhist Worship and on Shinto Worship – why not also Moslem Worship?

It is certain that this work will prove extremely valuable for many days to come. It is said, 'It is hoped that the Dictionary will . . . appeal to church-leaders, clergy and ministers, to laity and to students who wish to increase their understanding of the history (and contemporary practice of worship and liturgy'. There is no doubt that this work will for long satisfy this hope.

Notice should be taken of an important study by Paul Waitman Hoon – *The Integrity of Worship* (Abingdon Press, Nashville and New York, 1971, 363 pages, \$8.50). The sub-title is 'Ecumenical and Pastoral Studies in Liturgical Theology', and the chapter-headings are: The Concern for Worship, The Theological Character of Worship, The Relevance and Irrelevance of Worship, The Question of Subjectivity and Objectivity, The Language of Worship, and, The Nature of Liturgical Action. An extensive index will help to direct

the reader to the discussion of particular problems. There is no formal bibliography, but the notes at the foot of the pages refer to many liturgical books old and new. This book will repay careful reading, and merits close study. The intention of the book is indicated in the first chapter, in which Dr. Hoon says, 'This volume of essays undertakes to guide the thought of Protestant clergy and laity towards an understanding of what we have chosen to call the "integrity" of worship. . . . Integrity involves the heart's motives as well as the mind's thought'. The whole volume is devoted to an unfolding of the author's aims, and those concerned with liturgical theology will find much to interest them.

Another important book, though much smaller in extent, is *The Concept of Worship*, by Ninian Smart (London, Macmillan, St. Martin's Press, 1972, 77 pages, £1.95 net). After a short preface come Part One: Worshipping, pp. 1-52, and Part Two: God's Existence, pp. 55-75. The last two pages give the titles of books referred to in the text. Though this is not an ordinary treatise on worship and the various subjects are treated philosophically, there is much to stimulate and direct thought on many questions which are fundamental in worship study. Among the problems faced are that of the numinous, the relation of meditation to worship, the problems of Revelation, of Transcendence (so much neglected today), of Silence in worship, and the relation between worship and prayer, and between worship and praise. The declared intention of the book is to show the close connection between the Divine and the practice of worship. This book will be found not only interesting but also very rewarding.

Another new translation of the Psalms has been published under the title *Sing a New Song* (Collins, Fontana, 1971, 20p.). This has been prepared by the American Bible Society, which was responsible for the translation of the Gospels under the title *Good News for Modern Man*. The translation is completely modern, and as so often with new versions, some parts at least will be found to read well in constant use.

Still another book of modern prayers has appeared – *New Prayers for Worship*, by Alan Gaunt (John Paul the Preacher's Press, Charlton House, Leeds LS10 1JW, £1.50 post free). The contents are divided into groups such as 'Affirmations', 'Thanks and Praise', 'Confession and Forgiveness', 'Church, World, People', and 'Commitment'. This comes in a loose-leaf binder which permits the addition of further material when required. Dr. Erik Routley gives this high commendation, and readers, both ministers and laity, will find it helpful.

Much work is being done on the revision of worship-services, and in this connection many publications have been appearing. The

recent publications by Grove Books, Braincote, Notts., are of considerable interest, especially with reference to the Series 3 Holy Communion of the Church of England – *A Guide to Series 3* (and its music), by Peter E. Dale (24 pages, 20p.), *The Language of Series 3*, by David Frost (24 pages, 20p.), *Collects with the New Lectionary* by Peter R. Akehurst and Anthony J. Bishop (44 pages, 20 p.). There is also *Series 3 for the Family*, giving the text with pictures and notes for children (32 pages, 12p.).

The Committee on Aids to Devotion and Public Worship of the Church of Scotland has been busy preparing revisions of services, and has decided to publish three alternative experimental Orders for Holy Communion under the title *The Divine Service*. At the time of writing (December 1972) this has not appeared but is expected very shortly.

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