

SCRIPTURE

THE QUARTERLY OF THE CATHOLIC BIBLICAL ASSOCIATION

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EDITORIAL

The increasing demand for Bibles, New Testaments and for all kinds of Biblical information is a welcome sign of the growing interest in the Word of God. To meet this demand adequately is necessarily a slower process. But it is going forward. We are at present, among other things, engaged on promoting Biblical sermons in the parishes for which we count on the co-operation of the parochial clergy. These sermons are intended to be accompanied by a display of Biblical literature at the Church door. The aim of all this is to reach the ordinary Catholic. In many cases, interest thus aroused could lead to a regular study and it was for this that we prepared *The Gospel of St. Luke, arranged for group study*. Such organization will necessarily take time and in any case many will prefer to continue on their own. For them one can unreservedly recommend *Enjoying the New Testament* by Margaret Monro (Longmans) which gives a six-month course of reading and study presented in an attractive way.

Canada. As in the U.S.A., Canada has already advanced a long way along the path of Bible study and propaganda. Among other things they are engaged (as previously mentioned) on a new French translation of the Bible more adapted to their country. Radio talks on Bible topics are also a regular feature and a number of popular Scripture pamphlets are being produced. To facilitate the promotion of both learned and popular activities, two societies have been founded—the “Association Catholique d’Etudes Bibliques au Canada” for those learned in the Scriptures, and the “Société Catholique de la Bible,” for popular propaganda. It is interesting to notice that Spain has something similar—the “Asociación para el Fomento de los Estudios Bíblicos de España,”—corresponding to the Assoc. Cath., and they are at present organizing a “Sociedad Bíblica,” which would correspond to the “Soc. Cath. de la Bible.”

Germany. After so many years it is at last possible to find out how Biblical studies are progressing in a country always distinguished for the thoroughness of its Bible study. The “Katholische Bibelwerk Stuttgart”

has taken up its work once more with the publication of a series of booklets—the *Hefte* so characteristic of German publishing. The second of this series, is *Herodes Antipas und Jesus Christus* by Jos. Beinzler (1947). The *Zeitschrift* published by the Society before the war has not yet resumed publication, probably because of the paper shortage. They have however produced a work entitled *Praktisches Bibelhandbuch* comprising a popular introduction to the Scriptures, a German concordance, a Biblical Dictionary, a geography of Palestine, and an application to preaching and pastoral work of the Scripture text. Herder's of Freiburg are continuing their large Bible Commentary in twenty volumes—*Die Heilige Schrift für das Leben erklärt*. So far there have appeared Sam., Macc., Job, Pss., Wisd., Is., Jer., Ezech., Mt., Mk., Apoc.; and Vol. I. (Gen., Ex., Lev.) is in the press. Echter's of Wurzburg are bringing out a Bible translation with short commentary of which the first volume to appear is *Die Psalmen*, by Fr. Nötscher (Bonn). When we recall the difficulties in the way of intellectual life in Germany we can congratulate them on this revival of activity. Perhaps their greatest handicap at present is their intellectual isolation. They find it almost impossible to get the periodicals and books they need from other countries and this in itself must impose severe limitations on their work.

So far, not much news has reached us from Austria, but we are at least able to record with pleasure the reappearance of the *Theologisch-Praktische Quartalschrift* edited by the professors of the seminary at Linz a.d. Donau.

Lending-Library. We thank the donors of the following books. Presented by Rev. C. J. Roberts: Bellamy, *In the Beginning God*. Marshall, *St. Mark*. Robinson, *St. Mark*. Presented by Dr. Van Acker: *Hebrew Bible*. Presented by N. W. Osborne, Esq.: Hutton, *Atlas of Textual Criticism*. Presented by G. E. Sexton, Esq.: Skinner, *The Book of Samuel* in colloquial English. Chaine, *Introduction a la lecture des prophètes*. Power, *Ecclesiasticus*. *The Rich and Poor, a Biblical Anthology*. Anon. Lagrange, *St. Paul, Épître aux Romains*. Further gifts will be recorded in the next number.

Publications. Complete sets of SCRIPTURE from Vol. I, No. 1 (Jan. 1946) are still available. Extra copies were printed and kept in stock so as to be ready to meet the requests for back numbers. They are obtainable from the Hon. Secretary, price 1s. per copy if the set is bought, or 1s. 6d. a single copy. Copies of *The Gospel of St. Luke arranged for group study* may also be had for ninepence each and the Membership list is still available at sixpence. It would be much appreciated if in all cases the purchaser were to send money with order.

Those willing and able to do a little propaganda for the Association will be sent gratis on request leaflets describing the C.B.A., and cards suitable for putting on the church notice-board.

Questions and Answers. The editorial apologies for delay in answering questions has met with too ready a response from readers—for they have at the moment stopped asking any questions! May we say therefore that we shall be happy to receive some more at an early date.

The Revision of the Vulgate Bible. We print in this issue an article from the pen of Dom Adrian Weld-Blundell, O.S.B., on this subject which is perhaps not so well known in this country as it should be. Dom Adrian, who has now attained a very venerable age was one of the first collaborators in the work. He came to Rome in 1904 and began his task under the leadership of Abbot Gasquet, as he then was, at the Collegio Sant' Anselmo. In those days they were busy collating from the photographs of different manuscripts or revising others. During the world war of 1914-18 Dom Adrian served as chaplain in the Royal Navy and it was not till 1920 that he returned to his former work on the Revision. By this time Cardinal Gasquet had moved the work to the Palazzo San Callisto in Trastevere and Dom Adrian was notified that the Holy Father had appointed him a member of the Commission. Pius XI, who had of course long experience of manuscripts used to take a close interest in the work and not infrequently called members of the Commission to the Vatican to discuss details and give sound advice. On 26th June, 1926 the Commission were assembled to meet the Holy Father in the Vatican for the solemn presentation to him by Cardinal Gasquet of the first volume (Genesis) of the Revised text. A silver medal was struck to commemorate the event and distributed to the members of the Commission. In the autumn of 1927 Dom Adrian was sent to establish a monastery in Washington, U.S.A., and this officially ended his membership of the Commission although he did not cease to collaborate. He spent a short time in Rome again in 1936 after his leaving America, and on his return to Fort Augustus Abbey he continued to work on the collation of manuscripts until the "Blitz" made such work impossible in 1941. Some time ago he received a decoration from the Holy Father in recognition of his long and valuable services.

THE FUTURE LIFE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT¹

By the REV. E. F. SUTCLIFFE, S.J.

I

General Summary. The beliefs of different nations about the lot of man after death arouse perennial interest in thinking persons and the interest is the greater in the case of the beliefs of those whose religion

¹A paper read at the meeting of the Catholic Biblical Association at St. Benedict's School, Ealing, on 1st Sept., 1946.