

Literarische Berichte und Anzeigen

Allgemeines

Hans Freiherr von Campenhausen: *Tradition und Leben. Kräfte der Kirchengeschichte. Aufsätze und Vorträge.* Tübingen (J. C. B. Mohr) 1960. VIII, 440 S., geb. DM 32.50.

The sixteen papers reprinted in this excellent volume are stamped with high intellectual distinction, penetrating insight, and enviable lucidity. They are the work of a distinguished church historian reaching out beyond specialised studies of narrow detail and constantly aware of the urgent debate continuing on the frontier between theology and secular disciplines. It is characteristic that the New Testament is regarded as a part of church history, and also that many of these essays deal with precisely those historical questions which seem to make Christianity a difficult faith for the contemporary European mind. Here we have an answer at the highest level to such questions as the following: Is Christianity necessarily anti-cultural and anti-intellectual? Is it indifferent to public order, to political and social problems, and to the need for national defence by military means? Is it based on a naive belief in an ill-attested story of a miraculous resurrection? Is the resurrection a matter to which the normal canons of historical investigation are irrelevant? Is Christianity a melancholic and cheerless religion? Other papers deal with the early history of Christian asceticism, with the problem of order and ministry in the Church, and with the attitude to images. One paper, a refreshing discussion of Jaspers' grounds for being unable to subscribe himself a Christian, approaches one of the most acute frontier-problems, namely, the rejection of Christianity because its doctrine of revelation leads to exclusive claims and because, in an age when men often prefer an unhistorical and anti-logical mysticism such as Zen Buddhism, the theological structure of Christianity binds it to historical events. There is one correction of a trivial detail: the statement on p. 214 that Phocas required fallen soldiers to be reckoned as martyrs should be altered to Nicephorus Phocas (Balsamon and Zonaras, P. G. 138, 637-640). For the rest a grateful reviewer need only say: Tolle, lege.

Oxford

H. Chadwick

Hans-Werner Gensichen: *Missionsgeschichte der neueren Zeit* (= *Die Kirche in ihrer Geschichte. Ein Handbuch* hrsg. von K. D. Schmidt und E. Wolf, Band 4, Lfg. T). Göttingen (Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht) 1961. 62 S., DM 8.80.

Die im November 1961 in New Delhi erfolgte Integration des Internationalen Missionsrates in die Ökumene darf als Ausgangspunkt einer neuen Epoche der Missionsgeschichte gewertet werden. Von diesem Ereignis her gesehen kommt der vorliegenden Arbeit Gensichens zweifelsohne eine Aktualität zu, wie sie historischen Untersuchungen nicht allzu häufig beizumessen ist. Es wäre freilich verfehlt, wollte man das Moment der Gegenwartnähe so sehr überbetonen, daß der Eindruck entstehen könnte, als sei zuvörderst in ihr die Bedeutsamkeit der Leistung des Verfassers zu erblicken. Was dieser vorlegt, erweist sich vielmehr als eine Gabe von bleibendem Wert dank einer vorbildlichen theologischen Durchdringung des von ihm souverän