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As already suggested the author's position is that all documents must be approached through two avenues. There is, first, the historical avenue, through which the causes leading to the formulary are to be investigated. There is, secondly, the dogmatic avenue, in which we deal with finished results and technical statements of the truth.

If we are to understand a document at all, we must know the history that lies imbedded in its phrases. A phrase or a proposition is usually formulated to rectify some counter-phrase or proposition that is conceived to be wrong. Sometimes the counter-phrase or proposition is a protest against a wrong tendency working out of an orthodox proposition. This is seen, for example, in the rise of Sabellianism and its opposing conception, Arianism. Thus it becomes evident that to know any important document we must know its entire historical environment.

The author, accordingly, begins his consideration of each document with a short historical introduction, in which he indicates the principal historical events that contributed to the production of the document. Then follow a clear and concise analysis, the text, and critical notes.

Mr. Bindley's method is, accordingly, to be commended. When followed closely it will always yield good results.

His conservatism shows itself all through his book. The more radical or even progressive reader will incline here and there to limit the extent of his inferences, and sometimes even to deny that he has any basis for his tacit assumptions.

However, the emphasis which he puts on history is an excellent safeguard. His scholarship is keen, his style is clear, and his book is a valuable contribution to the "œcumenical documents of the faith."

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO.

J. W. MONCRIEF.

THE LUTHERAN CYCLOPEDIA. Edited by HENRY EYSTER JACOBS, D.D., Dean of the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, Pa., and REV. JOHN A. W. HAAS, B.D., with the Coöperation of Professor O. ZÖCKLER, University of Greifswald, and other European scholars, and representative scholars from the various synods. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1899. Pp. vii + 572. \$4.

THIS work does much to supply a long-felt want of many who do not read German, or who cannot afford to purchase the ponderous

German cyclopedias. It compresses within the limits of a single volume a vast amount of material. More than 150 writers have contributed to it. Of the most important of the topics controverted in the Lutheran church both sides are represented in able articles. The biographical sketches are gratifying for their concise presentation of the exact facts which one wishes to have at command. In a few of its features the work might be improved. Perhaps a certain number of German-American names unknown to general fame are to be expected in a cyclopedia designed exclusively for American Lutherans; but one could wish that the space given to a long list of minor professors and clergymen of the fatherland had been devoted to other persons wholly omitted or passed over with a few lines. There is no article on Schleiermacher, who, though not a Lutheran, has affected the Lutheran church profoundly. One looks in vain for such names as Wolf, Kant, Fichte, Hegel, F. H. Jacobi, Bahrtdt, Basedow, Jacob Böhme, F. C. Baur, and Wellhausen. One would expect that more than a third of a column would be accorded to such a man as Bucer or as Hans Egede. But, while *The Lutheran Cyclopedic* is not perfect, it is a work for which we may be very grateful to the learned men to whose labors we owe it.

FRANKLIN JOHNSON.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO.

A MANUAL OF CHURCH HISTORY. By ALBERT HENRY NEWMAN, D.D., LL.D., Professor of Church History in MacMaster University. Vol. I, *Ancient and Mediæval Church History* (to A. D. 1517). Philadelphia: American Baptist Publication Society, 1900. Pp. 637. \$2.25.

FOR many years Professor Newman has been known as a careful and accurate scholar. While his studies have taken him over many departments of learning, he has been concerned chiefly with the history of the Christian church. The book before us is the result of twenty years of patient and thorough investigation. In this way he has come into living connection with all the most important sources of information and made them completely his own. The result is a well-arranged manual closely packed with the essential facts of church history expressed in lucid English. And this fact of clear and simple expression cannot be too highly commended. It may be seriously questioned whether the ability to express one's self clearly and simply in one's mother-speech is not one of the essential marks of a great mind.