

wird auf ähnliche Bände für einzelne europäische Länder hingewiesen: All editions of the international serie (sic!) may be ordered with Schwann Verlag . . . , dem dieser erste Versuch kaum zur Ehre gereichen dürfte, vom Preis ganz zu schweigen.

Zum Schluß ein Wort von MARIETTA PEITZ, die, international bekannt, vor manchen Provinzjournalisten den Vorrang verdient hätte: «On n'a pas encore trouvé les situations, les structures, les formules de l'Eglise de demain, mais déjà elle a ses témoins et leur témoignage rayonne» (*Informations catholiques internationales*, Paris, 1-1-1968, 12).

Abbé Promper

Wiltgen, Ralph M., S.V.D.: *The Rhine Flows Into the Tiber*. The Unknown Council. Hawthorn Books/New York City (70 Fifth Ave.) 1967; 304 p., \$ 6,95.

It is difficult to keep up with the spath of books about the Council that have appeared since its close. Some have been translations of the decrees; some, commentaries; and others, histories of the day-to-day events. It is to the last of these that this book of Father WILTGEN belongs. It is an attempt to give a reasonable, and coherent account of what took place while the Council was in progress; and, although there have been many books so far that give the same thing, this book has something of its own to offer.

First, we are given much information, hitherto unrevealed or unknown, of the behind-the-scenes operations that notably influenced the progress and conclusions of the Council. Through his strategic 'connections', Father WILTGEN, as editor of the *Divine Word News Agency*, had access to much that escaped others, or was deliberately omitted from their books. Secondly, he sounds a note different from that of his predecessors; he opens a window, which, for those who are somewhat nauseated by the constant liberal wind, lets in truly a breath of fresh air.

In most books so far, we have been badgered with the hue and cry against the terrible, undemocratic, Machiavellian tactics of the conservatives, whose escutcheon, we have been amply given to understand, had more than one inquisitorial blot upon it; while the liberals, Galahad-like, came through it all with lily-white hands. Father WILTGEN will have us know that the story is not quite so naively one-sided. Despite their vigo-rapta protestations, the liberals themselves, to achieve their ends, did not eschew the use of underhanded, undemocratic, and thoroughly Machiavellian tactics. One finishes the book with the thought running through one's head: If Cardinal Ottaviani, with his clique, was a villain because of the means he used to have his considerations promoted by the Council; then, Cardinals Döpfner and König, with their clique, are also, and to a greater degree, and for the same reasons, villains. The 'good boys' of the Council were not so good after all.

Such a general thesis, the turning-of-the-tables upon the liberals, of course, makes for good reading, especially since it has been so sparingly brought to our attention before. However, the book drags in many places; a factual, numerical tabulation of the day-to-day procedure, when nothing of moment was forward, does not make for interest. And this is basically what Father Wiltgen aimed at, since he did not intend to write a scholarly study of the Council, but merely a readable, factual account of the events. It seems that

much could have been omitted without harm to the general aim and purpose of the book.

Although Father WILTGEN disavows it, one cannot help having the impression that there is a very definite theme running through the book: this is a German council, whose strategy, manoeuvres, and campaigns were planned, promoted, and achieved under the leadership of the spokesmen of the German hierarchy. It is in the verification of this thesis that Father WILTGEN will encounter his most redoubtable opposition; for, it is one thing to highlight the theme by isolating certain centers of power that were operative at the Council; it is quite another to maintain it in the face of all the centers of power that exerted their influence. The book suffers from a too concentrated selectivity of those facts that go to establish his theme, without, at the same time, emphasizing properly those that militate against it.

Missiologists will be interested in the brief, but informative account of the background of the proposition on the missions: cf. pp. 256 ff.

Esopus, New York

Carl Hoegerl C.S.S.R.

Der Zukunftsbezug in der Verkündigung. Bearbeitet von Josef Goldbrunner (= Schriften zur Katechetik, Band 4). Kösel-Verlag/München 1964. 161 S., DM 10,80; kart. DM 8,80.

Die Eschatologie, der die Theologen seit einiger Zeit besondere Aufmerksamkeit zuwenden, erweist sich in der Verkündigung als eines der Themen, die durch historisch bedingte Belastungen besonders beeinträchtigt sind. Auf diesem Gebiet spielen Vorurteile eine besonders große Rolle, und infolge von schiefen Vorstellungen entstehen unnötigerweise manche Zweifel und Schwächungen des Glaubensimpulses.

Angesichts dieser Tatsache ist es zu begrüßen, daß in dem vorliegenden Sammelband eine Reihe von — allerdings ungewöhnlich verschiedenartigen — Aufsätzen zu diesem Themenkreis zusammengefaßt ist. Da die Aufsätze im Laufe von fast 20 Jahren erschienen sind, wäre es in unserer schnelllebigen Zeit angebracht, wenn der Herausgeber das Datum der Erstveröffentlichung angeben würde. Dies gäbe die Möglichkeit, die Aufsätze ein wenig mehr auf dem Hintergrund ihrer Entstehungszeit zu sehen. Durch das Alter verlieren sie ja nicht ohne weiteres an Aktualität. Der älteste Aufsatz, der von Eugen WALTER, scheint mir zugleich der Wichtigste zu sein. Ob allerdings eine noch stark von der früheren Jugendbewegung her geprägte Adventsansprache (139—142) heute noch erträglich ist, und ob sie mehr als historisches Interesse verdient, wage ich zu bezweifeln. Besondere Beachtung verdienen außer dem genannten die Beiträge von Theodor FILTHAUT, Heinrich SPAEMANN und Otto BETZ. Prediger und Katechet finden in diesem Bändchen vielfältige Anregungen.

Freiburg / Br.

A. Exeler

Anschriften der Mitarbeiter dieses Heftes: P. Dr. HANS WALDENFELS, SJ, 4 Wittlaer, Grenzweg 2 · Prof. DDr. HEINZ ROBERT SCHLETTE, 5334 Ittenbach, Kantering 3 · P. CARL LAUFER, MSC, Missionshaus, 5777 Oeventrop · P. Dr. JOHANN KRAUS, SVD, Missionspriesterseminar, 5205 St. Augustin · FR. PAUL AOYAMA, S.V.D., 70 Yagumo-Cho, Showa-Ku, Nagoya, Japan.