

# THE UNION SEMINARY REVIEW

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## UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY IN THIS PRESENT AGE.

BY REV. BENJAMIN RICE LACY, JR., D. D.

*On the Occasion of His Inauguration as President of Union  
Theological Seminary in Virginia, May 11, 1927.*

It has been a year now since I was called to become President of this Seminary. I wondered why you called one with such little acquaintance with theological education or the problems which confront a modern seminary. I had hoped to have the counsel and advice of Dr. Moore at least for a time, but within a little over a month after my election, and before I had an opportunity even to consult him once, he had passed from us. My study of the problems of theological education has been broken and fragmentary and I cannot hope to bring you much that is either fresh or original. Some things, however, have impressed themselves upon me with great force and I wish to share with you my thoughts on this subject: "Union Theological Seminary in this Present Age."

### *I. Development of Professional Schools.*

We are fond of emphasizing the fact that the first college in America, Harvard, was founded for the purpose of educating ministers. The gates of Harvard carry the following quaint inscription:

"After God had carried us safe to New England, and wee had bilded our houses, provided necessaries for our livli-hood,

country preacher. Dr. Ray recognizes the praiseworthy service rendered by the country preacher of the old type, and shows his position of influence. He then discusses the essentials of the rural ministry of this new day, and gives a perspective of the rural church and its outlook and sets forth the difficulty of securing ministers adequate to the task. He follows with suggestions about an adequate program and material equipment.

This is a Baptist book and other denominations will not be interested in what he has to say about the ordinances. He ably proves the thesis that the Church of to-morrow in the country is the one which has an able, educated ministry properly supported.

A NEW DAY FOR THE COUNTRY CHURCH. *By Rolva Harlan, Ph. D.* Cokesbury Press, Nashville, Tenn. Pp. 166. \$1.25. Prof. Harlan is a Baptist minister who is a professor of Rural Sociology in Richmond University. He has had some experience as country pastor, as secretary of social service and rural community work. This book is the result of his studies in the Pastors' School of the Methodist Church. It consists of twelve chapters.

It is more optimistic and reveals a larger range of knowledge of the subject than most books on the country church. Presbyterians will not agree with his teachings about election, but will be very much stimulated by the perusal of its pages.

H. W. McLAUGHLIN.

*Country Church Director.*

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

BIBLE LANDS TO-DAY. *By William T. Ellis.* D. Appleton & Co., New York. Pp. 460. \$3.00. Dr. Ellis is the first man in history who has taken in all the lands of the Bible on one trip. It took him months to do so, even though he covered by Ford or Buick or Dodge lanes of travel, which in ancient times required weeks or months instead of days. He travelled with Abraham along the Euphrates and around the bend of the river into Canaan. He spent interesting days in the Egypt where Moses lived, and the Sinaitic Peninsula where he led the reluctant thousands of Israel, explored Sinai by automobile and discovered what he confidently believes is ancient Kadesh-Barnea. He followed in the footsteps of Christ in Judea, Galilee and Perea, and gives us intimate glimpses of old Jerusalem and an exhibit of the plans and work and prospects of the Zionists in Palestine. Then he carries his readers with him through Asia Minor, whence Christianity has been expatriated; through Greece, in the midst of an economic revival, and on to Rome, the city of ten thousand memories—and the dreams of Mussolini. The book lives up to its title. While giving

us much of Bible history, it is chiefly concerned with history in the making through these lands of the Bible. It thus presents "a new apologetic for Christianity, which no serious-minded person may ignore. To know the Bible's background", continues the author, "is to have new light upon its message; for the Bible, from first to last, carries the savor of the soil in which it grew". The book is most interestingly written and voluminously illustrated. I heartily commend it to our ministers and other Christian teachers.

J. GRAY McALLISTER

*Union Theological Seminary.*

A DICTIONARY OF MODERN ENGLISH USAGE. *By H. W. Fowler.* Oxford University Press. American Branch. New York. Double columns. 742 pages. \$3.00. This is the easiest, brightest and most usable and authoritative guide to correctness in speech and writing that has yet appeared. Every preacher, and for that matter every person who wants to know the best English, should keep this book on his desk and use it constantly. We heartily subscribe to the following glowing tribute by Wm. Lyon Phelps, professor of English Literature at Yale University: "Every one interested in the English language, in good usage, in spelling, in pronunciation, in Americanisms, in behaviour, in human nature, in life, or in any department of the universe, should at once buy and jealously keep 'A Dictionary of Modern English Usage' . . . Such a combination of learning, wit, humor and good taste I have never before seen in any dictionary. . . . If ever a book combined instruction with delight this does."

EUGENE C. CALDWELL.

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