

Overall, the translation, textual notes, and the exposition are superb, clearly written, and interesting. Any future work must consider what has been done here.

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Ziefle, Helmut W. *Theological German: A Reader*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1986. 283 pp. Paperback, \$14.95.

In producing his theological-German reader, Helmut Ziefle has attempted to "fill a void by providing meaningful and challenging texts and exercises for English-speaking students who want to read the German Bible and the works of German theologians in the original" (p. 9). About half of the book is devoted to readings from various portions of the OT and NT in an edition of Luther's translation that uses twentieth-century language. This is followed by short excerpts from the works of representative theologians. A brief introduction to the career of each theologian is supplied. A shorter third section of the book sets forth a part of the author's biography of his mother, first in the German original and then in an English translation. That biography is significant from the standpoint of the fact that Ziefle's mother resisted Adolf Hitler and the German Youth Movement of the Third Reich.

For the biblical sections and those representing modern theologians, the text is given on right-hand pages, with the left-hand pages devoted to definitions and/or explanations of some of the more difficult words and idioms. Also, at the close of each section there is a set of exercises that usually covers several pages.

When one takes into account the number of pages in the book that are devoted to explanatory materials, exercises, and introductions, the space devoted to actual "theological text" has been greatly curtailed. For the person who is endeavoring to get the mastery of theological German for work in a doctoral program, it seems that the actual reading material is therefore quite slim, and that a further disadvantage lies in the fact that most of it is at a rather elementary level and hardly difficult enough to acquaint the student sufficiently with the vocabulary and style of many of the most prominent theological writers.

In defense of the author's approach, however, it must be said that he has excerpted materials from quite a number of nineteenth- and twentieth-century writers. I suspect, moreover, that the book may have been prepared more for the general reader of theological German than for the potential scholar in the field.

In any case, this volume is a fairly useful tool and complements well the author's *Dictionary of Modern Theological German* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1982).

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