

## Book Reviews

*A Companion to the Bible*, by J.-J. Von Allmen, ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 1958. 479 pp.

*A Companion to the Bible* is the translation into English by P. J. Allcock and others of the second edition of *Vocabulaire Biblique* (Paris: Delachaux & Niestlé, 1956). The English edition of the book, published by Lutterworth, appears under the title *Vocabulary of the Bible*. One wonders why the American edition did not avail itself of the same title, particularly in light of the existence of the very useful *A Companion to the Bible* edited by T. W. Manson and published by T. & T. Clark in 1946.

The book consists of eighty-nine articles written by thirty-six French scholars and edited by J.-J. Von Allmen, Professor in the Theological Faculty of the University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland. The articles study the Biblical meaning and use of major words, doctrines, events, persons, and places. Where necessary, an article is written in two sections, by two different men, one of which deals with the Old Testament and the other with the New Testament. There are abundant quotations of passages and a complete index at the end of the book.

Inevitably the book invites comparison with the similar *A Theological Word Book of the Bible* edited by Alan Richardson. In many instances the two run parallel courses, and their treatment of a given word will be similar. *A Companion to the Bible* is more extensive, however, and deals with subjects not covered by Richardson's book. An example of this is to be seen in the ten-page article on Jesus by P. Bonnard, in which the major names and titles used of Jesus in the New Testament are studied; the article in Richardson's book takes up only half a column. An article on Paul covers three pages in Von Allmen's book; there is no article on Paul in Richardson's.

It might be said that the two titles are fairly indicative of the specific emphasis of each book, theological as contrasted with the Biblical. This, of course, is not to say that the "Biblical" studies are any less theologically orientated than the "theological" studies.

The articles in *Companion*, unlike those in *Word Book*, contain no references to other works, nor do they have a bibliography at the end. This, however, in no way detracts from the worth of the study and exposition of the different subjects.

The work will prove of immense value to the English-reading Bible student as it already has proven its worth in French. It will also benefit the Bible translator who wishes to get a comprehensive view of a particular Bible word before translating it in any specific passage. What is still needed, however, is a word book of the Bible written with the specific needs of the translator in mind.

Robert G. Bratcher

*The Interlinear Greek-English New Testament*, by Alfred Marshall. London: Samuel Bagster and Sons Limited. 1958. xvii, 1027 pp. 42s.

Samuel Bagster and Sons have issued another volume in their series of Biblical handbooks, a revised edition of their interlinear Greek-