

ground covered here will be somewhat helpful for some aspects of daily life than van der Woude, which should be turned to for the geography, text and history. Both will encourage the reader to move on to the more detailed Bible dictionaries happily available to most translators, such as *The Illustrated Bible Dictionary* (IVP, 3 vols., 1980) and *The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible* (Abingdon, 6 vols., 1978).

D. J. WISEMAN

Loader, J. A. **Ecclesiastes: A Practical Commentary**, translated by John Vriend. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans 1986 vii+136 pp.

Loader's commentary is only of marginal help to the Bible translator. His introductory material is useful and not too full, and he includes a brief summary of the major literary forms to be found in the book.

Throughout the book there are some minor points of value to the translator—the play on words in 7.5-7 is mentioned (but not that in 7.1); rhetorical questions are handled well; comments are occasionally made about problems with the RSV or TEV renderings; comments about the structure of passages are generally very helpful. However, textually problematic sections, such as 5.8-9, are often not treated in a manner which would allow the translator to consider an alternative. This is especially important when Loader's own translation is often very different, but we find it only in a footnote.

GRAHAM S. OGDEN

Readers of Dutch will be interested to know of a quarterly published by The Netherlands Bible Society in co-operation with the Belgian Bible Society, and devoted to questions of Bible translation and distribution. It is called **Met Andere Woorden**; it is now in its 6th year of publication; and it is available free from:

Nederlands Bijbelgenootschap  
Postbus 620  
2003 RP Haarlem  
The Netherlands

## BOOKS RECEIVED

Benson, Morton, Evelyn Benson and Robert Ilson: **The BBI Combinatory Dictionary of English: a Guide to Word Combinations** (Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins Publishing Company 1986; xxxvi+286 pp., no price stated) claims to "tell you which words go together in English and which words do not", and among other things to "show the key differences between American English and British English."

We welcome a new journal from the Summer Institute of Linguistics. It is called *OPTAT: Occasional Papers in Translation and Textlinguistics* (ISSN 0890-7749; ISBN 0-88312-668-0). Its joint editors are Robert E. Longacre and Mildred Larson, and it replaces the previous SIL publication *START*.

The first (January 1987) number of *OPTAT* includes an editorial introduction and six substantial analysis, three related to the Old Testament, one to the New Testament, and two to translation principles. The longest, by Ernst-August Gott entitled "What is the meaning we translate?", proposes that "the desired goal of translation will be equivalence between the original text and its translation in terms of their explicit contents" (54).

*OPTAT* is obtainable from Summer Institute of Linguistics, 7500 W. Camp Wisdom Road, Dallas, Texas 75236 at \$16.00 a year for 4 issues, or \$5.00 per single copy.