

one of the most helpful things that Dr. Black has done is to provide a listing of bibliographical items relevant to the interpretation of the letter. This is done both by the inclusion of a select bibliography at the beginning of the commentary (with the categories "older commentaries"; "modern commentaries"; "other recommended studies"; and "the structure of Romans") and by listing throughout the commentary bibliographical information relevant to the particular passage under consideration (for example, see 1.3; 1.19, 22; 3.24; 25; 5.12; 8.15, 28; 9.1, 5; 10.4; 13.1-7).

The commentary is brief (less than 200 pages), but compact, wasting no words, and giving detailed exegesis where necessary. Some of the more significant concepts in Romans are discussed (for example, "salvation" pp. 43-44; "the righteousness of God" pp. 44-45; "wrath" pp. 48-49; *hilastērion* pp. 68-70, with an additional note on pp. 72-73; and "fresh", "body", "spirit", pp. 108-113). Textual problems are evaluated; and the translator will be especially interested in Dr. Black's conclusion regarding "through faith for faith" (see pp. 46-48). Of no little importance to the translator is the necessity of understanding the overall structure of the book, and of each section of the book that he is translating, and in this regard the analysis of each section of the letter is extremely valuable. More often than not, where there is a significant difference of interpretation, the various viewpoints are given, followed by the writer's own conclusion.

Some of the same features that commend this commentary so highly to the reader who has a sophisticated grasp of English, and who is familiar with Greek and Hebrew terminology, may possibly make it difficult for other readers. Sometimes the discussion of a subject is interspersed with a great deal of bibliographical data and/or transliterated Greek terms, which makes reading difficult. In fact, there are several Latin quotations, as well as the transliteration of Hebrew and Syriac, and the use of a few German terms. Sometimes even the English may sound like a foreign tongue to second readers of the English language ("The argument is a little tortuous, and very much in the disputatious style of rabbinical logomachy. But it enables Paul to reply to the charges of antinomianism to which he had been exposed", p. 62).

This is one of those commentaries that a translator ought to have available to help him through the many difficult problems of Romans. If the translator happens to be one of those persons whose knowledge of English is minimal, then it would be well worth his while to find someone who could help him get the full benefit from this work.

BARCLAY M. NEWMAN

Lambdin, Thomas O.: **Introduction to Biblical Hebrew**. London: Darton, Longman and Todd 1973. 345 pp., £3.25.

As the beginner turns to the book's first paragraph he will be pleasantly surprised to realize he need not go into the intricacies of Hebrew orthography all at once but can refer back to the initial section as directed. It is this understanding of the student's fears and needs which characterises the book

throughout. The assimilation of the orthography is spaced out over the first seven lessons and transliteration is widely used, thus enabling the student, as the author points out, "to perceive Hebrew as a language and not an exercise in decipherment".

Pedagogically the material is intelligently ordered and the exercises exploit the predictive power of the rules. Syntax is considered carefully: the basic sequences are classified and summarised schematically, later elaborations are built around them and the discussion is enhanced by the comments given in the illustrative passages in the last lesson. When the beginner arrives at the stage where he has to look things up but cannot yet use a good dictionary efficiently, he will be especially grateful for the excellent system of reference from the vocabulary to the Appendices (classified lists of nouns and Qal verbs together with their principal forms) and to the body of the text. The discussion of select idioms helps the student become aware of other such usages, and through the author's use of G. M. Landes' *A Student's Vocabulary of Biblical Hebrew*, he finds himself, after having worked through the book, in possession of the most frequently occurring words of Biblical Hebrew.

Given the limitations imposed on a work of this kind it is not possible to pinpoint anything but minor flaws in the book, mostly of a technical nature, such as the misprint in the vocabulary reference under 'āmāh A54e for the correct A53e. Some words occurring in the text are not included in the vocabulary and paradigms cut short with an "etc." may cause uncertainty to the student working without a teacher.

Remarkably, an effort is made to stimulate the student to translate dynamically (as in the discussion of *hinnēh*) and to take into consideration both the grammatical and semantic context. At a time when the reviewer still hears professional teachers of Biblical Hebrew urge their students to translate literally "for the present" and leave adaptation in translating into another language "for later", an introductory grammar which tackles this fundamental problem right from the start is most welcome.

ALBERT J. BORG

Fishman, Joshua A. (ed.): *Advances in the Sociology of Language* Vol. II (Selected Studies and Applications): Mouton 1972. 534 pp., Dfl.40.—

This is the second volume of a pair of books dealing with the social aspects of language. The first volume of the set bears the sub-title "Basic Concepts, Theories and Problems: Alternative Approaches", and consists of four monograph-length essays by sociolinguists dealing with the field in a general manner. The volume being reviewed here presents twenty-four studies which aim to deal with specific problems and are, therefore, in most cases, applications of the more general insights to specific sociolinguistic problems.

The book is organized into five sections: I—Small Group Interaction; II—Large-Scale Socio-cultural Processes; III—Bilingualism and Diglossia; IV—Language Maintenance and Language Shift; V—Applied Sociology of