

Translators would find the book stimulating background. Its treatment of key-words such as 'Son of Man', 'flesh', 'justification', would have been more accessible if there had been a subject index. The notes are at the end of the book, not at the bottom of the page. There is something to be said on both sides, but it is tantalising to see an interesting note and then have to search for its page reference without any help.

Granted time and money, however, any reader will find a great deal to reward him both in the scholarship of this book and in its truly Christian spirit.

HAROLD K. MOULTON

Gott Spricht viele Sprachen, Eugene A. Nida, (a translation into German of *God's Word in Man's Language* by Karl-Heinz Kemner). 1966. (Evang. Missionsverlag) 208 Seiten, 8 Bildseiten, Taschenbuch DM 5,80.

Der Evangelische Missionsverlag hat durch die Herausgabe dieses Buches —eine Übersetzung von 'God's Word in Man's Language'—eine Lücke geschlossen, die im deutschsprachigen Raum besonders fühlbar war. Bedingt durch eine starke Opposition gegen alle Missionsarbeit in der Hitlerzeit und die praktisch missionslosen Kriegs- und Nachkriegsjahre, hatte sich das allgemeine Interesse fast ausschliesslich innerdeutschen Fragen zugewandt. In den letzten zehn Jahren hat sich eine starke Missionsliteratur entwickelt, aber der ganze Sektor der Bibelübersetzung wird darin kaum angesprochen. Einen besseren Start als mit Dr Nida's Buch kann man sich bestimmt nicht wünschen. Denn hier spricht ein Mann aus langjähriger kompetenter Erfahrung im Umgang mit Übersetzern und Übersetzungen, mit glücklichen Lösungen schwieriger Probleme und erheiternden oder auch gefährlichen Fehlern. Der Text selbst ist gut übersetzt, so dass von der Spannung des Originals nichts verloren geht. Durch ein Bibelstellenverzeichnis, eine Liste der erwähnten Sprachen und ein Sachregister wird das Buch ausserdem zu einer zugänglichen Fundgrube für wertvolle Beispiele, auf die jeder angewiesen ist, der predigen oder unterrichten will. Einige Bilder runden das ganze ab.

Wie hoch die Bedeutung dieser Veröffentlichung eingeschätzt wird, mag daraus hervorgehen, dass der Ratsvorsitzende der Evangelischen Kirche in Deutschland, Bischof Scharf, das Buch mit einem Geleitwort versehen hat. Die deutschsprachigen Leser werden von der Erweiterung ihres Horizontes bis hin zu den entfernten Völkern und ihren Sprachen selbst den grössten Gewinn haben. Auf der anderen Seite würde der erweiterte Blick auch die Hände öffnen, durch Übersetzung und Druck der Bibel diesen Völkern entscheidende Entwicklungshilfe zu geben. Deshalb wünschen wir dem Buch allerweiteste Verbreitung und Eingang in viele Häuser und Herzen.

RUDOLF KASSÜHLKE

Leviticus and Numbers, edited by N. H. Snaith, The Century Bible, New Edition. London: Nelson, 1967, pp. 352; 50s. 0d.

This volume is the first in a new series of commentaries based on the R.S.V., the general editors of the series being H. H. Rowley (O.T.) and

M. Black (N.T.). There are a number of O.T. books for which recent commentaries particularly useful to translators are scarce, and this new series promises to fill some of the gaps within the foreseeable future. The publishers note on the dustjacket that: 'The series is intended for the interested layman, as well as students and the clergy, and therefore the presentation is not too technical.' This is true of the present volume—yet it is at least sufficiently technical for translators to benefit from it, with references in appropriate places to more detailed articles and books. Also, preceding the Introduction is a 'Bibliography of Recent Publications', which includes commentaries on Leviticus and Numbers and special studies on Hebrew Law, the Holiness Code, etc.

The Introduction, 26 pages long, deals with the sources of the books, the history of the priesthood, the temple sacrifices and similar subjects. The translator will be able to compare Snaith's listing and titles of the sections and sub-sections with the present U.B.S. headings (and others, such as those in the Interpreter's Bible). Worth considering are the few places where he has made more divisions than the U.B.S. list—e.g., Leviticus 6: 8-7: 38 is one section in the U.B.S. list but Snaith divides into seven. (Naturally Snaith has not worded his headings with the translator's job in mind.)

In the commentary proper the sub-sections are opened with a brief general note where necessary and then follow detailed notes on a verse by verse basis, i.e. the same scheme as the original Century Bible series. Material needed by translators is in good supply. Leviticus and Numbers contain fewer difficulties of a theological nature for the translator than some books, and besides, by the time they are reached in a translation program most key Biblical terms have been settled. There are, however, problems of terms for a wide variety of material objects. Generally speaking Snaith provides some guidance in such cases. These include, for example, the high priest's clothing in Leviticus 8, the animals, birds, and insects in Leviticus 11 and the utensils mentioned in Numbers 4. Modern equivalents of weights and measures are given, but all of those that I checked were very similar to the equivalents listed by Bratcher in his article in *The Bible Translator*, Vol. 10, No. 4, 1959.

Differences between various English versions are explained, making the translator's choice at least better informed—especially if he has to work from English alone. Snaith usually gives his preference in such cases, but occasionally does not venture to do so, as in his discussion of Numbers 21: 14, where the R.S.V. translates 'Waheb in Suphah' while the A.V. follows the Vulgate 'as he did in the Red Sea, so will he do in the streams of Arnon'. (Incidentally, the Jerusalem Bible which does not appear to be referred to in this commentary, presumably because it appeared too late, here translates similarly to the R.S.V.)

Use has been made of findings from Ugarit in addition to frequent references to post-Biblical Jewish literature, e.g. the Talmud and Rashi.

Snaith provides the occasional 'odd' piece of information such as the origin of the English word 'frankincense' (p. 34), and here and there he introduces a lighter note. Thus, on p. 85 he concludes a discussion as to whether John the Baptist ate locusts or locust beans with the statement 'It all depends on whether John did any cooking.'

At the end of the book is a map of the Nile Delta and the Sinai Peninsula, followed by a short index of main subjects.

This is, in my opinion, a volume well worth the attention of anyone involved in translating all, or any part, of Leviticus and Numbers. Titles so far listed for publication are The Gospel of Luke; Joshua, Judges, and Ruth; Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and Philemon; Ezekiel; and James, Jude and 2 Peter.

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