

GOD HERE AND NOW, by Karl Barth.
New York, 1964; Harper and Row; 108
pp., \$3.75. 108A 7817

This slight volume is a collection of seven addresses delivered within the past fifteen years by the Swiss theologian before diverse audiences. This writing is Karl Barth at his best. The chapter entitled "God's Word and the Decision of Faith" is one of the finest expositions of his basic doctrine of the word of God. One cannot read his discussion of the demands of grace in a time of crisis for the Church without applying it to our own condition in mid-century America. Some of the decisions that faced the confessional Church in Germany in 1934 are frighteningly like ours here thirty years later. We ignore Karl Barth's warnings at our peril. Many of us recently returned from the 1964 General Conference. We hear Barth with new understanding when he writes "It is dangerous when the Church is only part dead, partly no longer the Church. This part is then a cancer that can easily eat into sound tissue and be the death of the whole body. Then the borderline case threatens that the whole Church will cease to be the Church. If that does not happen, then it is only because the living Lord Jesus Christ cannot die because the Church is on its way to the resurrection that depends on Him. In and of itself, the Church could otherwise only decay and perish."

Those who have been heartened by the revised Book of Worship will find Barth's discussion of liturgy especially helpful on page 78. These essays would provide an excellent study book for a class of either laymen or ministers. An index would have been a welcome addition to this book.

Wm B. Gould WILLIAM B. GOULD