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April 6, 1960

Mr. Richard Baltzell
Harper & Brothers
49 E. 33rd Street
New York 16, New York

Dear Mr. Baltzell:

We are pleased to send you the enclosed review of PROTESTANT THOUGHT FROM ROUSSEAU TO RITSCHL by Karl Barth. This review will be appearing in the June issue of ETERNITY Magazine.

This is a book which will be helpful to many of our readers. If you are interested in advertising it in the June issue, we shall be glad to hear from you. Our deadline is April 20.

Cordially yours,

Pearl Moy

Pearl Moy
Advertising

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PROTESTANT THOUGHT FROM ROUSSEAU TO RITSCHL. Karl Barth. Translated from the German by Jaroslav Pelikan. Harper. 435 pp. \$7.00.

The reviewer is Paul K. Jewett, associate professor of systematic theology at Fuller Theological Seminary and author of "Brunner's Concept of Revelation" (Kregel).

Historical theology is the handmaid of systematic theology and no one can excel in the latter discipline who does not excel in the former. Since Barth excels as a systematic theologian, this study is not a surprise in its scope and erudition. In fact, there is a kind of special advantage--though it also be a disadvantage--in having a theologian write about the history of doctrine, since he cannot be indifferent to the issues of right and wrong in Christian teaching. Who can give a more challenging analysis of a theologian's thought than another theologian, who, like himself, thinks theologically?

The translator and his publishers have done English readers a service in giving them this volume for two reasons. First of all, it helps one get a more balanced view of Karl Barth's thinking. It is easy to gain the impression from the way Barth and his disciples sometimes talk, that he is only negatively concerned with the thought of religious liberals. Having once made the volt face, he has had nothing more to do with these abominable heretics. But this is not so. Barth has read and interacted with the best of them, and this series of studies proves it.

In the second place, here is a book which will introduce to the student of Protestant theology who is limited to English, some men whom he probably does not know as well as he should. The Germans have never surrendered the initiative which Luther seized in matters theological--though they have often carried the discussion far afield and buried the simplicity of the gospel under a heap of ponderous learning. All serious students of Protestant theology must, therefore, become acquainted with the thought of the

great German theologians of the 18th century. A book like this is a great help in getting started. In the original work Barth introduces the reader to 25 worthies, with pictures. In this translation we have only ten of them--and no pictures. But the publisher should hardly be blamed for this. English readers just are not able to take the strong meat of a full-blown German book. We have to have short books. And with the price of book making in America, no one would have bought the book, had they translated all Barth wrote. Anyway, the most important names are retained, to wit: Rousseau, Lessing, Kant, Herder, Novalis, Hegel, Schleiermacher, Feuerbach, Strauss, and Ritschl, and the last is really given a "good run for his money."