

## BRIEFLY NOTED

*Lift Up Your Life*, by MORRIS GOLDSTEIN (New York: Philosophical Library, Inc., 1961)

"This book is dedicated to the proposition that luck is within the reach of all of us." With this as his stated goal, Dr. Goldstein reflects upon man's failure to utilize his own powers in influencing "chance." While somewhat lacking in continuity and logical precision, the points he makes are lucidly presented and are supplemented by some enlightened real-life illustrations. Even if Dr. Goldstein's arguments are unconvincing, he has at least provided us with much food for thought.

Emanuel Forman

*Past and Present Selected Essays*, by ISRAEL FRIEDLAENDER (New York: The Burning Bush Press, 1961)

Dr. Israel Friedlaender is perhaps best known to the reader of Judaica for his English translation of Maimonides' "Guide for the Perplexed." The essays herein presented will do much to broaden our image of this outstanding scholar. His profound piety and

excellent erudition are all reflected in this volume. In these essays, the subject matter of which covers such a wide range of subjects as "The Political Ideal of the Prophets," "The Function of Jewish Learning in America," and Zionism and Religious Judaism," the author emerges as a scholar possessing keen insight into contemporary Jewish affairs. This volume is recommended as a valuable addition to any Jewish home library.

Emanuel Forman

*American Jewish Year Book 1961*, edited by MORRIS FINE and MILTON HIMMELFARB (New York: The American Jewish Committee; Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 1961)

Like its predecessors, the 1961 *American Jewish Year Book* is an indispensable source book on contemporary Jewish life. It features articles reviewing events of Jewish interest in the United States and throughout the world, and includes special reports on "the Eichmann Case," the "International Swastika Outbreak," and "Religion in the 1960 Presidential Campaign." Of

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special interest are a study on "Jewish Fertility in the United States," based on the results of the March 1957 nationwide sample survey of the United States Bureau of the Census, a review of "Two Centuries of Jewish Life in Canada, 1760-1960," and an article delineating seven basic "Problems Facing Jewish Educational Philosophy." A storehouse of statistical data, its tables range from world Jewish population figures to the receipts and distributions of national Jewish fund drives, and its listings, from American Jewish organizations and periodicals to an American Jewish bibliography and a United States necrology.

Milton Furst

*Religion, Government, and Education*, edited by WILLIAM W. BRICKMAN and STANLEY LEHRER (New York: Society for the Advancement of Education, 1961)

The pros and cons of the current church-state-school controversy are here presented in a comprehensive and well-documented manner. The questions of religion in the public school and public aid to religious schools are fully treated in this little volume. In addition to the various denominational view points, practically all official and legal opinions in the matter to date have been cited.

The book is a valuable aid to all who are interested in formulating an intelligent opinion in the matter of church-state-school relationships.

Louis M. Tuchman

*Careers in Jewish Education, Community Organization Work, and Vocational Service in Jewish Agencies*, Occupational Brief Series (Washington, D.C.: B'nai Brith Vocational Service, 1961)

B'nai Brith is to be commended for its excellent efforts in vocational guidance. These revised career briefs contain a comprehensive survey of educational requirements, employment outlook, salary scale, job descriptions, and working conditions in simple outline form. For a more complete picture, the factual backgrounds should be placed in proper perspective through personal contact with personnel in the field.

William Herskowitz

*The Power Within Us* by KURT KLAPPHOLZ (Brooklyn: The Torah Institute, Inc., 1961).

While to some extent suffering from a "rabbinic malady," i.e., the use of a condescending style and the tendency to "over-quote," Rabbi Klappholz's brief volume of monographs, "The Power Within Us," does constitute a distinct contribution to the field of Rabbi-layman dialogue. In introducing the *raison d'être* for his effort, the author avers that "while men are busily engaged in the attempt to explore outer space, they seem to have lost sight of the vital importance to explore the space within them, and to bring to the fore the great spiritual power that the Almighty has placed at their disposal for the advancement of personal peace and inner security . . . Once man develops a sense of

awareness of the spiritual energy with which God has endowed him, he will begin to push back the jungle within him created by negative thinking." In this age of push-button negativism, punctuated by fears and anxieties of imminent annihilation, an eloquent appeal to the emotions of faith and trust is to be applauded. In his fine, dissective interpretation of the twenty-third Psalm, as well as in several other essays, the author aims his shaft in this direction and succeeds in cleaving the very core of contemporary "sophisticated atheism." To summarize, despite its stylistic shortcomings, Rabbi Klappholz's contribution deserves a careful reading and commendation.

Henry Hoschander

*Bridge To Brotherhood* by STUART E. ROSENBERG (London-Toronto-New York: Abelard-Schuman, 1961).

Because the author of "Bridge to Brotherhood" is described on the jacket of the book as "... rabbi of the largest Jewish congregation in Canada . . . author . . . and lecturer on comparative religion," his thesis, unfortunately will be accepted by many uninformed readers, both Jewish and non-Jewish, as a correct and authentic portrayal of the traditional Jewish point of view. His discussion of the rise of the synagogue, his concept of the "Holy of Holies" as a place for sacrifice (p. 4), his description of many ceremonies in Jewish life, as well as his complete disregard for the biblical

commands which established and ordained the festivals of the year, are certainly far from traditional.

Indirectly, he lends support to Orthodoxy when he states that today, the "pious," "devout," and "observant" Jews still fulfill the laws of Kashruth, wear *arba kanfot* and, in general, observe the rituals and ceremonials of Judaism. With regard to the rabbi he states, "Indeed, before men are ordained as rabbis, they are expected to be masters of Talmudic literature, and thus qualified to render decisions based upon authentic rabbinical sources" p. 61-2).

There are omissions regarding basic Jewish regulations. And, one wonders why he suggests (p. 75) that the letter *yod* is stamped on the arm phylactery, when this obviously is not the case.

The book represents more an *apologia* than a dialogue with Christianity, as stated in the subtitle.

Louis M. Tuchman

*The Bible Is For You* by STUART E. ROSENBERG (Toronto-London-New York: Longmans, Green and Co., 1961).

The book consists of two parts. The second half points up Rabbi Rosenberg's facile pen and deft handling of biblical texts, indicating his abilities as a preacher.

In the first part, Rabbi Rosenberg displays his abilities as a lecturer and a teacher and pleads for a return to the study of the Bible. However, Rabbi Rosenberg prefers to accept the viewpoint of non-Jewish "biblical critics," who label

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biblical accounts as mere myths, despite his assertions that "Today, in the light of so many finds that help to document and support the text [of the Bible], scholars are swinging back towards the earlier view; again, most believe that, by and large, the Biblical report is more likely to be true than spu-

rious, unless there is overwhelming evidence from other sources to prove the contrary" (p. 49); and, as a result of archaeology, the Bible "deals with facts" (p. 54).

The book is written in an interesting style, but must be read critically.

Louis M. Tuchman

## TRADITION: *A Journal of Orthodox Thought*

### REVIEWERS IN THIS ISSUE

GERSON APPEL, spiritual leader of Adath Yeshurun in Kew Gardens, has frequently written for TRADITION.

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JACOB I. DIENSTAG, librarian at Yeshiva University, has frequently reviewed books in TRADITION.

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