

BRIEFLY NOTED

Three Generations: The Influence of Samson Raphael Hirsch on Jewish Life and Thought by ISIDOR GRUNFELD (London: Jewish Post Publications, 1958)

A detailed history of the Hirschean movement from the time of its founder to the publication date of *Three Generations*, it will be of primary interest to the historians and biographers of a later age. Dayan Grunfeld presents an analysis of the main Hirschean thesis of *Torah im Derekh Eretz* and an exhaustive listing of all those, no matter how intellectually remote, who trace even only a part of their theological lineage to the master.

M. L.

The Nineteen Letters by SAMSON RAPHAEL HIRSCH. Prepared by Jacob Breuer (New York: Philip Feldheim, 1960)

The strength of Hirsch's defense

of Orthodox Judaism can better be understood by modern readers as a result of Dr. Breuer's fine literary style in this newly translated edition of Hirsch's famous *Nineteen Letters of Ben Uziel*, originally translated into English by Rabbi Dr. Bernard Drachman. This little volume deserves to be widely disseminated.

L. M. T.

Kitzur Darkei Teshuvah by YITZHAK AMSEL (New York: Sender Deutsch, 1960)

A most valuable abridgment of the encyclopedic *Darkei Teshuvah* on the laws of *Terefah*, with illuminating commentary and useful indices. This will prove to be an invaluable tool for the practicing rabbi in deciding halakhic questions in this area of kosher law.

M. S.

Die Existenzphilosophie Franz Ro-

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senzweigs by ELSE FREUND
(Hamburg: Meiner, 1959)

This is a very competent and well-written account of some major themes in Rosenzweig's *Star of Redemption*. It emphasizes Rosenzweig's affinity to the later Schelling's "positive" philosophy in his reaction to German Idealism. The author takes us through Rosenzweig's concrete thinking, the priority of being over thought, and his philosophy of language. Though the emphasis in this study is more on Rosenzweig the philosopher than the religious thinker, it will be consulted with interest by all Rosenzweig admirers who can also read German.

M. W.

I Shall Glorify Him by MAURICE LAMM (N.Y.: Bloch Publishing Co., 1960)

A study guide to Herman Wouk's *This Is My God*, it is also an excellent supplement to that book. In fourteen chapters on basic fundamentals of Judaism, Rabbi Lamm presents a capsule review of Wouk's material, and offers cross-references to treatment of the same theme elsewhere in the book. The subject is further clarified, expounded, and analyzed by presenting arguments both for and against the major thesis by Wouk. Since Wouk's original was written for popular consumption and in the discursive style of the novelist, this study guide is an invaluable tool for using *This Is My God* as a text-book. Indeed, *I Shall Glorify Him* has value beyond its auxiliary nature to the Wouk book. Especially good is the bibli-

ographical list appended to each chapter, in which only popular and semi-popular works are referred to. The guide represents "the standpoint of Traditional Judaism." It will be of great value and interest both to individuals and to classes who may want to choose *This Is My God* as a working text.

G. Y.

A Guide to Jewish History by SIDNEY B. HOENIG (N.Y.: Yeshiva University, 1960)

An excellent and comprehensive outline from the early beginnings to modern times, for both teachers and students of history, whose interests lie either in amassing a thorough knowledge of events, or in understanding the main streams of Jewish history, or both. To help achieve these aims, the author presents not only an outline in general terms, but also of specific periods, with emphasis upon individuals and institutions whose contributions aided in moulding the eras during which they were prominent. A very important feature of the *Guide* is the acknowledgement that throughout the centuries of Jewish experience one can invariably discern the guiding hand of God directing and shaping their destinies.

L. M. T.

Vistas From Mount Moriah: A Scientist Views Judaism and the World by LEO LEVI (N.Y.: Gur Publishing Co., 1959)

This intelligent series of essays on Science, Evolution, Laws of

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Conduct, Arts, etc., leads the reader to the conclusion that in Torah and its teachings one can find life's goals. We find here the importance attached by the author to secular studies, and can easily see how one can be led to understand the harmony that exists between Torah and these studies. Levi indicates, throughout his essays, that, in the final analysis, one can find within Judaism the answers to many of the social problems which beset mankind. The observations of the author are noteworthy for their clarity and are wholly traditional. However, the book would have been enhanced by more accurate transliterations, rather than by merely spelling words haphazardly.

L. M. T.

Sabbath Sermons by ABRAHAM COHEN (London: The Soncino Press, 1960)

Fifty-one sermons, one for each Sidra of the year, have been selected by Rabbis Chaim Pearl and Alex Tobias from the vast material left by the late distinguished English rabbi, Dr. Abraham Cohen, who was both Lecturer in Homiletics in Jews' College and General Editor of the *Soncino Chumash* and the *Soncino Books of the Bible*. Dignified without being pompous, these sermons have much to recommend them to laymen as well as to rabbis: insight, erudition, forthrightness. There is an inevitable lack of timeliness in addresses delivered over the past forty years, but very much of what he had to say then is still relevant today. Of special interest is his *Va-yetzei*

sermon on the "What is a Jew?" theme, preached forty years before it provoked a government crisis in Israel.

M. S.

Old-New Land by THEODOR HERZL. Trans. with introduction and revised notes by Lotta Levensohn, and with a new preface by Emanuel Neumann (New York: Bloch Publishing Co. & Herzl Press, 1960)

The significance of this new English edition of the novel by the founder of modern Zionism is aptly expressed by Emanuel Neumann in his preface: "Whatever the merits or faults of *Altneuland* from the literary standpoint, its importance lies in that it became a classic which helped to inspire two generations of Zionists . . . The book is necessary reading for a full understanding of the Herzlian saga and the genesis of the Zionist Movement" — a saga that deserves to be reviewed with insight the year Israel celebrates the one hundredth anniversary of Herzl's birth.

M. S.