

■ *Modern Christian Thought: From the Enlightenment to Vatican II*, by JAMES C. LIVINGSTON. The Macmillan Company, New York, 1971. 523 pp. No price.

LIVINGSTON describes his book as "a study of some of the major intellectual movements in modern Christian thought." "Modern Christian thought" refers to the period of some three hundred years of Christian intellectual history, from Locke, Voltaire, and Lessing to Bonhoeffer, Teilhard de Chardin, Vatican II, and Karl Rahner. The book is neatly organized and the subject attractively presented. Each chapter is designed to stand by itself and is internally organized (according to a model inspired by John Herman Randall) to include (1) the setting of historical and intellectual background, (2) an examination of principal ideas, and (3) illustration of those ideas by reference to selected individual thinkers. Sufficient sample quotations are taken from translated primary materials, but the book is not an anthology, and is in every sense all of one piece.

Taken as a textbook—the table of contents reads like the outline of a college or seminary course of instruction—Livingston's work makes a definite advance over previous studies. True, the innovations lie neither in the approach nor in the subjects treated; the book will probably not be consulted for whatever fresh insights it might bring to the subject. (In this regard it is important to recognize that Livingston keeps most of his theses to himself.) At

the same time, the book becomes very useful because of the clear, readable, and compellingly expert way in which the author has presented his materials and because of the thoroughness which he brings to his study. The product is a work that could very easily become the standard text in the field; it would be difficult to improve upon its style or its author's expository skills. And if outstanding Scandinavian thinkers have been omitted entirely and Roman Catholic stances included primarily where they seem to suit predominantly Protestant interests, this only tells us something more about the state of the field and the manner of selectivity practiced therein.

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■ *The Flight from Creation*, by GUSTAF WINGREN. Augsburg Publishing House, Minneapolis, 1971. 92 pp. \$2.50 (paper).

THIS collection of four essays by Wingren is a good introduction to his thought in general and to his single-minded reaffirmation of the theology of creation in particular. The chapters are entitled "Creation, A Crucial Article of Faith: My Selection of Topics," "Creation and Ethics: From *Ordnungstheologie* to the Theology of Revolution," "Creation and Theology: Theology Between Dogmatics and Analysis," and "A Return to Creation."

In an era when redemption has