
The sub-title of this quite substantial volume is: The Story of Judaism, Its Teachings, Philosophy and Symbols. The author, a D.D., Ph.D., is Chief Minister of the Temple Emanuel, Sydney, Australia.

Rabbi Brasch's style is lucid, and his subject matter seldom fails to hold the interest of the reader whose basic beliefs may diverge radically from his own.

The following areas will be consulted with profit by subscribers to Prudentia: In PART I — The Jewish Way of Life (pp. 3-47) — chapter 4 (The Jewish Calendar, pp. 19-22) and chapter 5 (The Cycle of the Jewish Year, pp. 23-46). In PART II — The Books of Judaism, pp. 53-178 — chapter 7 (The Book that grew for a Thousand Years, pp. 53-94) and chapter 8 (Hidden Books, pp. 95-99). The intriguing title of chapter 9 (A Book of 2000 Authors, pp. 100-108) will almost certainly invite perusal.

The regrettably short discussion in Chapter 14 (Hebrew — A Sacred Tongue, pp. 170-176) highlights some of the arresting features of the structure and the vocabulary of the Hebrew Language. Thus the conciseness of Hebrew is reflected in the 'momentous commandment': "And thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself" which demands 'just three words' for its expression (viz. weolahvta leragha kamokah — Leviticus 19:18). Some may care to know that 'Hebrew has no direct equivalent for marriage, which is denoted by the word for "sanctification" (p. 176).

In PART V — The Jew in the World, pp. 279-379 — Rabbi Brasch in a chapter on 'Strange Contradictions' (37) has some pertinent observations on 'Names' with special reference to the so-called Tetragrammaton JHVH and its hybridised form Jehovah. Even the modern academic pronunciation of 'Yahweh' he dismisses as 'only a guess.' Precisely; and what does 'Yahweh' mean?

This is an example of a book which is calculated to resist 'compartmentalised' reading.

The illustrations are plentiful and welcome.

H. R. Minn