

the strength of Grant's work emerge. Because Grant is a historian by profession, the subtitle, *An Historian's Review of the Gospels*, is technically correct, but it would be more accurate and helpful if the title were, *Jesus: Michael Grant's View of the Gospels*. While his training in history may inform his analysis, Grant is not writing history here; he is asserting in a clear, compelling way his own understanding of Jesus and his own Christian theology.

Even in method, Grant often veers from the common historical norms. His repeated argument that an event in Jesus's life, like the crucifixion, is fact because the early Christians would have found it so hard to accept, or the reverse, that an event like the resurrection, is suspect because the apostles wanted it so badly to be true, is a dubious line of reasoning and certainly not conclusive. The modern imposition of what is desirable or undesirable is unjustified, for what makes us so certain that our value judgments concur with those of the early Christians? Grant is not a historian here; he is a speculative theologian presenting his own judgments.

In the same way, Grant's provocative conclusion to his major theme is not history but theology. He writes at the end of the book concerning charity and compassion. "When Jesus himself laid stress on these qualities, they had been, as we have noted, subordinate to his preaching of the Kingdom of God which would soon, he believed, be completely established on earth. His belief proved untrue: no such Kingdom was established (p. 190)." Perhaps this is true according to Grant's understanding of the Kingdom; however, countless thousands of people over two millennia have disagreed. Grant is engaged in a theological debate with them, and, as such, may be read with enjoyment.

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America's First Hospital: The Pennsylvania Hospital, 1751-1841. By WILLIAM H. WILLIAMS. (Wayne, Pennsylvania: Haverford House, 1976. Pp. 186. Acknowledgments, illustrations, charts, tables, appendix, notes, selective bibliography, index. \$12.50.)

From Benjamin Franklin's pioneer account of its beginnings published in 1754, the history of Pennsylvania Hospital has been told and retold. Until now, however, chroniclers of the hospital's past have been uniformly eulogistic and uncritical. In fact, many of the earlier

"official" histories were tied into fund-raising campaigns. Franklin's *Some Account of the Pennsylvania Hospital* even included on its final page a convenient contribution form. What distinguishes the present effort is not only the author's relative objectivity but also his detailed research and analytical skills.

Unlike its predecessors, *America's First Hospital* is not written simply from an institutional point of view. Although relying heavily on the official documents located in the archives of Pennsylvania Hospital, the author submits them to modern quantitative analysis and presents for the first time a clear picture of the hospital's finances, patient population, management, staff, and mortality rate. In addition, he has mined the manuscript collection of the Pennsylvania Historical Society and unearthed new and fascinating facts which help round out the study. For example, he quotes a letter from an insane patient in 1790 who "complained vigorously of the 'House Ratz' " which " 'ran over' his face in the dead of night, and threatened to eat him, as well as his meat and bread." Presented here are not only the famous managers and physicians, such as Israel Pemberton and Thomas Bond, but also the matrons, stewards, cell keepers, nurses, and maids.

In six well-organized chapters, Williams reviews the evolution of Pennsylvania Hospital from its origins in the 1750s through the end of the eighteenth century. These chapters comprise the bulk of this volume and discuss in detail the motives of the hospital's Quaker founders, the strengths and weaknesses of its management, the continuing struggle to wrest financial support from public and private sources, the construction of its evolving physical plant, the competency of its staff, and the efficacy of its patient care. At the center of this analysis are the continuing controversies over the type of patient to be admitted and treated — the sick-poor generally or the "industrious" poor, the paying or nonpaying, the incurable or curable, the mentally or physically ill, the immoral (unwed mothers and venereal cases) or moral. In spite of a continuing preference to admit and treat only the industrious, nonpaying poor of good morality and with curable, physical diseases, economic pressures and other exigencies brought increasing numbers of patients who did not measure up to those standards. At times, the institution threatened to become "primarily an insane asylum" of paying clientele.

It is to be regretted that the author has limited this study essentially to Pennsylvania Hospital's first half-century. The crucial period from 1801 to 1841 receives only cursory treatment in a final chapter. It is concluded there that early in the nineteenth century Pennsylvania

Hospital took "a back seat" to Philadelphia General and other hospitals. By 1841, "Anglo-America's first hospital was no longer the nation's largest, nor its leader, in pioneering new methods of treatment, via research, for its patients." A more thorough analysis of the first half of the nineteenth century together with at least a summary of the institution's evolution since that time would have been of service and interest to the historian as well as the general reader.

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Clockmakers of Lancaster County and Their Clocks, 1750-1850. By STACY B. C. WOOD, JR. and STEPHEN E. KRAMER III. *With a Study of Lancaster County Clock Cases* by JOHN J. SNYDER, JR. (New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold Company, 1977. Pp. 224. Acknowledgments, preface, introduction, indexes. \$16.50.)

This is a worthwhile and much-needed book, particularly in view of the increasing interest in early clocks, and the fact that Lancaster County was a rich area in their production. Although neither Wood nor Kramer is a historian, and apparently neither one a Lancastrian — they met while attending the Bowman Technical School there, studying clocks — their work shows a real devotion to their subject. The book includes a directory of clockmakers of the county and technical discussions of cases, dials, and movements. It is completely illustrated with excellent photographs.

It is regrettable, however, that some criticisms must be made, reluctant as this reviewer may be to cavil at such a much-needed, well-written, and interesting work. It is unfortunate that the authors failed to provide some symbols on the county map (p. 12) to show the number of known clocks and clockmakers in the various subdivisions. There are occasional passages which seem confusing. For instance, after discussing apprenticeships, the authors note that on the average, clockmakers "started their own business in their twenty-third year," adding (p. 13): "One must realize that for many of them, their lives were already two-thirds over." This would seem to call for a frequent life span of under thirty-five years. Yet a search of the Directory shows only three, Jacob Burg, John George Hoff, Jr., and Henry Lewis Montandon, who demonstrably died at such an early age. (Often vital statistics are partially or completely missing.)