

resulting from the iniquitous action of the fathers. If we interpret this visitation to be the guilt of the iniquity, we contradict the rest of the Bible; therefore we must interpret it as the weakness. Ezekiel wrote, "The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son" (Ezekiel 18:20).

- 2 God's treatment of ignorance and of presumption is discussed in Numbers 15:24-31. Only the presumptive ones perish, unless they repent. Peter dealt with some ignorance on the day of Pentecost. (See Acts 3:14-19.) When Light banished the crucifier's ignorance, God required action, and thousands repented.

Brief Reviews

COMPARATIVE ODONTOLOGY

By Bernard Peyer; translated and edited by Rainer Zangerl

University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1968 xiv plus 347 pp \$22.50

This book is the result of the dual effort of a German scientist and the chief curator of the department of geology of the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago. The death of Bernard Peyer in 1963 interrupted the publication of *Comparative Odontology*, and the book was subsequently translated from German into English and published by Zangerl.

This is a book intended primarily for the scientist. Despite the fact that it pertains to teeth, it is of only academic concern to the practicing dentist. Its highly technical terminology and detailed descriptions exclude it from ever becoming a best seller. As a reference book and as a scientific publication, it is probably the best in its field.

Probably no structures in living organisms manifest such variation in form as do dentitions. From the horny denticle of the lamprey and the polyphyodont dentition of the shark, to the highly differentiated teeth of some vertebrates, tremendous differences may be seen. Of particular interest are the tusk of the elephant (which is actually an incisor) and the hollow tubular fang of the rattlesnake.

As might be expected, Peyer and Zangerl support the theory of organic evolution and occasionally make reference to the changes in morphology of the teeth as the creature adapted itself to its environment. Of the 347 pages, however, only 17 are devoted to theories of evolution.

It has often been posed that the shapes of the teeth affected the eating habits of the animals; e.g., herbivorous animals have corrugated enamel plates for grinding grasses and herbs, whereas carnivorous animals, in contrast, have pointed, knifelike cutting edges to sever tendons and flesh of their prey. In this regard the authors have an interesting comment.

As a systematic criterion, the mode of feeding is usable only with caution, because in different, unquestionably natural, groups of mammals there are both carnivores and herbivorous forms; for example, among the marsupials. Even omnivorous forms and

the giant panda (*Ailuropoda melanoleuca*) feed exclusively on bamboo shoots. The extinct cave bear is assumed to have also been a vegetarian [p. 192].

It is remarkable that the porpoise (delphinids), with highly developed intelligence, has 250 or more small, simple cone-shaped teeth, very similar to those of reptiles, whereas other mammals with a much lower intelligence have more differentiated dentition of specific formulae. No explanation is given for this.

Another interesting comparison involves the male and female of a single species.

A very extraordinary enlargement of a single tooth occurs in the male of the narwhal (*Monodon*); in this form the permanently growing, usually left, incisor may reach a length of over two meters. The right incisor remains hidden in the gingiva, as do both the incisors of the female. This is probably the most extreme case of sexual dimorphism in the dentition [p. 272].

73

The book is extremely well organized, a matter of no small moment for a reference book about teeth of all animals, both living and extinct. Histologic considerations are provided throughout the text. The book is well documented and well illustrated with drawings, photographs, and color plates.

LLOYD BAUM

BAPTISM THROUGH THE CENTURIES

By Henry F. Brown

Pacific Press Publishing Association, Mountain View, California, 1965 122 pp

32 pp of illustrations cloth \$4.25

The author introduces his subject by pointing out that baptism did not originate with the Christian church but was practiced as a purification rite in ancient pagan religions. In Judaism it was known as a form of initiation. Thus the baptism of John was not unique as a rite but common as an existing ceremony. John's baptism, indicating a response to the Baptist's message of repentance, was accepted by Christ and his disciples and thus became part of primitive Christianity. Paul saw a significance for it deeper than a mere symbol of purification or an initiation rite of fellowship. He regarded baptism as a sign of burying the past life and as a revolutionary transformation of the person.

Brown notes the influence of pagan philosophy and rites on the meaning and practice of baptism during the first three centuries A.D. "Thus the heresy of salvation by water baptism was taught, rather than salvation in Christ through repentance."

Infant baptism in the early church is mentioned by Origen (ca. 185-254), and was advocated by Augustine (354-430), but adult baptism was the rule during the first six centuries. The introduction and finally the requirement of the baptism of infants made necessary the adoption of new and strange doctrines, such as the assigning of infants to the "misery of the damned" if they died without having been baptized.

The author then discusses the origin of sprinkling and pouring as substitutes for immersion. He calls attention to the witness of ancient baptisteries, and the illustration of the rite of baptism on monuments through sculpture, frescos, and mosaics. This section is enriched with thirty pages of photographs.

The history of the protest against the alterations of the biblical mode of baptism is given only nine pages. The author closes his discourse by calling attention, very briefly, to the fact that a number of writers from various churches have recently advocated abandoning the baptism of infants and limiting baptism to converted adults.

Although the book is entitled *Baptism Through the Centuries*, the author's primary purpose seems to be to present the archaeological evidence on the history of this rite. This little book is well written and well documented, and one could only wish that the author had expanded it so that greater justice could have been done to the many interesting phases of the subject.

M.C.

BOOK REVIEWS. Since the quality and variety of reviews can best be maintained and improved with a wide base of participation, readers are encouraged to submit reviews of books that they feel are of special interest or importance. Information on editorial criteria and manuscript format, which may be helpful to prospective reviewers, is available from the book review editor, Bruce E. Trumbo, 315 Inwood Lane, Hayward, California 94544. Inquiries about reviews should also be directed to this address. All other *typescripts* and *letters of comment* for publication, however, should be sent to the Editor, Box 866, Loma Linda, California 92354.