

PENTECOSTALISM. By John Thomas Nichol. New York: Harper & Row,  
1966. 264 pp. \$5.95.

This book will undoubtedly become a standard text on the history of Pentecostalism. Not only does it trace the birth of the movement in the United States, but it also records its spread throughout the world. Further, the author has included chapters on Pentecostal groups today, both in America and elsewhere and both the larger, mainline Pentecostal groups as well as the smaller, non-mainstream groups. He assesses recent trends among Pentecostals, like reemphasis on healing, promotion of education and tongues among non-Pentecostals.

The treatment is often based on primary sources and is everywhere scholarly and objective. The author was reared in Pentecostalism but this in no way prejudices his writing.

It is true that Pentecostalism has become a powerful "Third Force" (along with classic Protestantism and Catholicism) in the world, and as such it demands our attention. This book fills a need for a comprehensive historical survey of the movement, but it does not deal with the doctrines of Pentecostalism. Thus this book can and does show that Pentecostalism needs to be recognized, but whether it should be accepted or rejected is not answered in this book. Historical respectability does not necessarily include doctrinal veracity.