

Belief in Science and in Christian Life

The Relevance of Michael Polanyi's
Thought for Christian Faith and Life

Edited by **Thomas F. Torrance**

This book is the exciting product of a conference of scientists and theologians. It reconsiders some basic Christian convictions in the context of the scientific revolution of our times and draws help from Michael Polanyi, one of the greatest scientist-philosophers of the age. Special attention is given to his work in restoring the fundamental role of belief in science, and also to his development of an integrative way of thinking which heals the cultural split between science, the arts and theology and brings to light a gradient of meaning rising through them all to the higher intangible levels of spiritual reality. No systematic account of Polanyi's philosophy of science is given, but illuminating discussion is offered throughout and helpful notes and comments on his basic concepts are added.

This is not a technical book in theology or science, but is designed for a wider public untrained in theology or science who seek a deeper understanding of the Christian Faith and want to grasp something of its inner reasonableness. The book will appeal to many people who look for rational support for their beliefs but instinctively know that this must come from the very foundations on which those beliefs rest. Here the reader will learn that even the most rigorous science shares some of the foundations of these beliefs.

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CHILDREN OUT OF COURT

MARTIN ● FOX ● MURRAY

Since 1971 Scotland has had a unique system of juvenile justice, in which a central part is played by panels of lay volunteers. In what was perhaps the most detailed study of any juvenile justice system ever carried out, the authors examined the operation of the children's hearings system throughout Scotland. They gave particular attention to the factors associated with decision-making by the panels themselves and by the intake officials (reporters to children's panels) who make the initial decision as to whether children referred to them by the police or other agencies are "in need of compulsory measures of care". These enquiries involved both a detailed analysis of records and systematic observation and recording of the interaction of the hearings themselves. Resulting data have been examined to throw light on the quality of practice, including adherence to procedural requirements and the participation of children and parents in the proceedings. Samples of children and parents were personally interviewed to gain understanding of their sense of the fairness of the hearings, their feelings of personal involvement in the process, and of issues of stigma and labelling. Large scale questionnaire studies made it possible to identify the operational philosophies of panel members and of the social workers who serviced the hearings. Concluding chapters review the implications of this project for the theory and practice of juvenile justice in Britain and in the United States.

THE AUTHORS

F. M. MARTIN, Professor of Social Administration, University of Glasgow.

SANFORD J. FOX, Professor of Law, Boston College Law School.

KATHLEEN MURRAY, Lecturer in charge, Panel Training Resource Centre, University of Glasgow.

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