

## REVIEWS

### PHILOSOPHY

PHILOSOPHY OF THE SCIENCES, OR THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENTS OF KNOWLEDGE. By F. R. Tennant, D.D., B.Sc. (Cambridge University Press, 1932; 6/-.)

'This volume,' explains the author, 'contains the Tarner lectures for 1931-2, substantially in the form in which they were delivered.' It is a very important book, though, like so much English writing in the sciences in general, its importance cannot be more than ephemeral. It is important because it is the best attempt that has so far been made by any English writer to meet the problem that is vexing modern science: the reconciliation of the conclusions of the special sciences in the unity of one harmonious Truth.

It is ephemeral because the author attempts to effect this reconciliation on the basis of Psychology. In scientific articles this may pass for to-day but it will not do for ever. It is no more than a learned defence of the popular contemporary notion that everything—religion, education, morality, criminology, science itself—has been fully and philosophically explained when it has been reduced to Psychology. This is not true. The truth is to be found in the doctrine of Aristotle and St. Thomas, that there is only one science, namely Metaphysics, that need not look outside itself for its principles, and only one science, namely Logic, in which the bearing of those principles on the sciences in general (metaphysics now included) can be adequately discussed.

Modern scientists will not escape from their present quandary until they have learned to look first of all to logic for their method, and last of all to metaphysics for a synthesis of their conclusions. Psychology itself is not sufficient for itself until it has forgotten to be practical and by becoming a speculative science opened the way to metaphysics. This doctrine is not very easy to expound to modern scientists precisely because of their lack of logic. Some attempt at constructive work in this direction will appear in these pages shortly.

M.M.

A SURVEY OF SOCIOLOGY. By E. J. Ross. (The Bruce Publishing Co.; \$3.50.)

This work is a material contribution to the philosophy of society, in the sense that it presents systematically the facts which are covered by social theory as viewed by the 'official' Catholic mind. If it does not solve the titanic difficulties of the

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modern world, it can be justly urged that the author's intention included no such ambition : but there is certainly an implication that modern administrative methods can accomplish changes which can result only from a moral revolution in the corporate mind. Specially noteworthy features of the book are the attention paid to every section of a very wide subject, illustrated from all states, though predominantly the English-speaking ; continual appeal to principles ; and the application of these to practical affairs by the citation of the social encyclicals of Popes Leo XIII and Pius XI. A valuable, if a trifle stodgy, work of the encyclopaedic type.

S.H.

ETUDES CARMELITAINES, *Mystiques et Missionaires*. Octobre, 1932. (Paris : Desclée de Brouwer. Pp. 268. 15 fr.)

This remarkable bi-annual review, to which BLACKFRIARS has already drawn attention, continues to offer, not ephemerality, but substantial contributions to the scientific study of mysticism. Miracles, and preternatural phenomena generally, are not essential to the mystical state—a point which is only beginning to receive its proper publicity through the revival and extension of what may be called the Dominican and Carmelite school of spirituality. Teresa Neuman is not a saint because of the extraordinary happenings about her. Still, we are grateful for two lengthy articles in which Prof. Lavaud, O.P., gives her history and Dr. van der Elst a psycho-physiological study of her case. M. Etienne Borne with sympathy and penetration compares Christian and Bergsonian spirituality, basing himself on the recently published *Deux Sources de la Morale et de la Religion* (Paris, Alcan)—a book of capital importance to which BLACKFRIARS promises serious consideration in the near future. His conclusion recognizes the Christian spirit of M. Bergson's work, but is reluctantly moved to disallow the name to the philosophy on which it draws. Space forbids further account of the autumn contents of *Etudes Carmelitaines*, a publication of which no serious student of the philosophy of religion should be unaware.

T.G.

THE MASS EXPLAINED TO CHILDREN. By Dr. Maria Montessori. (Sheed & Ward ; 4/-.)

The title of this book does not sufficiently indicate that it is meant rather for the teacher than for the use of the child. Those who, knowing and appreciating the educational method of the authoress, have looked forward with high hope to the publication of this work will not be disappointed. Step by step Dr.