

PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION by H. D. Lewis. *EUP (Teach Yourself)*, 10s. 6d.

Religion continues to exert its unique fascination. Apart from the steady growth and refinement of the more or less scientific approaches to the subject there is also always enough interest to warrant the publication of a more philosophical study. Beyond all description of the various historical forms of religion the problem always arises of the validity of religion at all, of the sort of truth religion represents. It is difficult to think of any university teacher in this country better qualified than Professor Lewis to undertake a fresh examination of the range of problems suggested to philosophers by the existence of religion. By the requirements of the series in which his book appears it is of course elementary and lucid, but the author is already well known for the clarity of his writing in this field. If there is a serious criticism which might be justly ventured it would be that, at least from the Catholic standpoint, the book is really much too local, much too *British*, in its scope and references. The philosophy of religion is a fairly modern development: there is nothing much which counts as such before Spinoza and Lessing. Neither of them is mentioned here, but it is much more surprising and disappointing to find that there is no discussion of either Newman or Blondel. It is true that the latter's work is not accessible in translation and this makes it difficult to discuss in a book intended primarily to introduce the ordinary reader to personal study in the subject. It is no doubt for this reason that Karl Rahner's important work on the philosophy of religion has not been discussed either. But it is really rather bizarre when one considers that such writers are not mentioned and a whole chapter is devoted to David Cox and R. B. Braithwaite (however interesting they may be as symptoms of total confusion in Christian thinking). Perhaps it would have been fairer to indicate, somewhere in the course of the book, that the most creative work in the subject is taking place on the continent. Even with this limitation (understandable in the circumstances) the book constitutes a very useful introduction, and there are hints of personal positions towards the end which it is to be expected that Professor Lewis will develop more fully in his Gifford Lectures.

FERGUS KERR, O.P.

THE MAKING OF A MIND : Letters of a soldier-priest 1914–1919 by Pierre Teilhard de Chardin. Collins 28s.

TEILHARD DE CHARDIN : Pilgrim of the Future, edited by Neville Braybrooke. Darton, Longmann and Todd 6s. 6d.

'I assure you that I'd a thousand times rather be throwing grenades . . . than be a supernumerary (i.e. chaplain) as I am now. What I am going to say may not be very orthodox – and yet I believe there's a core of truth in it: I feel that doing so