

REVIEWS

CAUSALITY AND IMPLICATION. By D. J. B. Hawkins. (Sheed & Ward, 5s.)

It is a little difficult to see why this book has attracted so much notice in the Catholic papers. As an introduction to the problem of causality it could well be useful, and it outlines the position which Fr. Hawkins is presumably ready to defend; it can hardly be said even to outline the plan of his defence. It is neither original enough nor profound enough to be an important contribution to the philosophical literature on causality; indeed, Fr. Hawkins only claims to be re-stating an old position and explicitly disclaims having said the last word.

I do not want to be unhandsome, only it is a little disappointing to read the book after having read the reviews of it. So much of it is only exposition of philosophical commonplaces, and surely the account of the various kinds of implication is commonplace to those who have studied even the elements of logistics. Fr. Hawkins never makes it clear why an analysis of causality, or of our spontaneous conviction in its favour, must necessarily be in terms of implication in order to answer Hume's regularity analysis. And that seems to be a fundamental question.

In points of detail the treatment seems to become very thin just where one could have hoped for solidity; I would instance the section where it is argued that implication is a relation between *facts*, not merely propositions. The plain man's convictions have been upset, as the author meant them to be, but perhaps only a very plain man could be satisfied with the attempt to set them up again. To upset a man's convictions is perhaps the only introduction to philosophy, but it fails in this purpose if he is at once satisfied with plain reasons; and is there any other motive for upsetting him?

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CHRISTIAN SOCIOLOGY

THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD. By C. E. Hudson and M. B. Reckitt. (Allen & Unwin; 7s. 6d.)

Two distinguished Anglicans who have already given proof of their profound interest in the social life of our century and their grasp of specifically social problems, here attempt to help students to a similar understanding through a historical study of Christian Sociology. Their method is pedagogic and scholars are warned that they must not look for much first hand material. By linking with a guiding commentary extracts from a wide range of contemporary writers, the authors succeed admirably in conveying a sense of social issues. This is perhaps the end which the authors