

INSTITUTE NOTES

OBJECTS OF THE INSTITUTE

The Royal Institute of Philosophy was founded in order to promote the study of philosophy within the Universities and other educational institutions and also among the educated public generally. It pursues its aim by

- (1) Organizing courses of lectures;
- (2) Providing those of its members who wish for it with advice on philosophical reading;
- (3) Publishing a quarterly journal, *Philosophy*, in which philosophical problems are discussed and new books reviewed.

Philosophy is a group of studies rather than a single one, and it has been pursued by different methods at different times. The Royal Institute of Philosophy interprets the term in a wide sense, so as to include ethics, aesthetics, metaphysics, the philosophy of religion, logic and the philosophy of science, the philosophy of history, political and social philosophy, and the philosophy of mind, and is not committed to any single school or method. The specialization which has taken place between the sciences and within them has made it desirable for scientists and philosophers to consider, from time to time, the relationships of the sciences to one another and to other aspects of human endeavour. Developments in psychology, psychiatry and social anthropology raise not only scientific and logical problems but also appear relevant to the ways in which men think about religion, morality and law, so that there is a constant need for unprejudiced and detailed inquiry into the precise points at which these developments are relevant and into the consequences which ought to be drawn. It is constantly desirable, too, that there be a renewal of our thinking on the questions of freedom and equality, authority and criticism, tradition and progress, which form the subject-matter of political philosophy. Persisting throughout all social changes is the deep-rooted metaphysical interest in the nature of the soul, its relation to material things, the origin of the world and the place of man in it—problems summed up by Kant as concerned with "God, freedom and immortality."

It is the object of The Royal Institute of Philosophy to provide a forum for the rational discussion of these and similar questions. This requires strenuous thinking, but it is hoped that the services which the Institute provides, and particularly the existence of a journal in which such thinking is carried out in language as free from technicalities as the nature of the subject allows, will help to maintain standards of intellectual appreciation and satisfy a cultural need.

The annual subscription to the Institute is £1 10s. Members receive the Institute's Journal, *PHILOSOPHY*, published quarterly, and may, of course, attend the Lectures.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Full-time students applying for election are eligible for Associate Membership which carries all the privileges of full Membership save that of participating in the government of the Institute. The period during which a student may enjoy Associate Membership is limited to three years, and the subscription is at the much reduced rate of 8s. 6d. per annum.

CENTRES

Local centres of the Institute have been established at Bangor, Newcastle and Durham. A branch has also recently been established at Los Angeles.

Forms of application for membership may be had on application to the Assistant Secretary at University Hall, 14 Gordon Square, W.C.1.

The following Lectures will be given at 14 Gordon Square, W.C.1, at 5.30 p.m.:—

Lent Term, 1957

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| Friday, January 25th | "Plato's Theory of Ideas"
Sir W. David Ross, K.B.E., Litt.D., LL.D., F.B.A. |
| Friday, February 1st | "Scepticism about Morals and Scepticism about Knowledge"
W. H. Walsh, M.A. (Merton College, Oxford) |
| Friday, February 8th | "The Unpredictability of Man"
Professor H. B. Acton (Bedford College, London) |
| Friday, February 15th | "Religious Doubt and Philosophic Doubt"
Professor H. D. Lewis (King's College, London) |
| Friday, February 22nd | "Philosophy and Drama"
D. Daiches Raphael, M.A., D.Phil. (University of Glasgow) |
| Friday, March 1st | "Some Leading Ideas of Whitehead's Philosophy"
Sydney E. Hooper, O.B.E., M.A. |
| Friday, March 8th | "Ortega y Gasset and Philosophical Relativism"
The Rev. F. C. Copleston, S.J., M.A. (Heythrop College, Chipping Norton) |

ELECTION OF HON. TREASURER

At the Council Meeting held in October, Sir Edwin S. Herbert, K.B.E., LL.B., was elected Hon. Treasurer of the Institute.