

PHILOSOPHY

THE JOURNAL OF THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PHILOSOPHY

VOL. XXI. No. 78

APRIL 1946

EDITORIAL

THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PHILOSOPHY comes of age on 6th April, 1946. For twenty-one years it has endeavoured to provide a philosophic background for those seeking to equip themselves for the task of forming sound judgments on the many complex problems of our age—scientific, moral, religious, and even political.

It not infrequently happens that some emotional shock in the formative period of a person's life, or the novel experience of contact with a great and original thinker, leads to an awakening from a state of unquestioning acceptance of the world and its ways, to one of active wonder and of critical appraisal. As a consequence, there arises a thirst for an understanding of the things of time and eternity, which persists so long as life lasts. This state of mind is what the Greeks called *ἡ φιλοσοφία*.

Evidence is not wanting to show that the increasing specialization of man's work, and of the studies involved in the preparation for such work, greatly limits and narrows his outlook, begetting a sense of impoverishment through exclusion from important aspects of reality vaguely felt but not clearly seen. Thus it is that many feel the need for an opening of the windows of the mind so as to enjoy the view of the wider whole to which they belong, in the hope that through a vision of the realm of the ideal in its relation to the plane of the actual, they may gain inspiration to pursue their specialist tasks, enlightened by an understanding of their significance in this wider whole. It is the function of philosophy to present, if it can, this vision, and it is hoped that many have been helped to obtain at least some glimpses of the totality of existence by means of the services provided by the Institute during the past twenty-one years.

It is fitting at this time to record our sincere thanks to the many lecturers and contributors to *Philosophy*, who have ungrudgingly and with enthusiasm given of the ripest fruit of their scholarship,

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that others might share in their wisdom. At the same time we thank members and others who, by their support and appreciation of the Institute's work, have contributed much to its successful adventure of bringing philosophy from the study to the forum.

It will readily be understood that the war has brought a considerable reduction in membership and income, at a time of greatly increased costs. Consequently, the Institute imperatively needs to augment its resources, in order that it may both continue and, at the appropriate time, expand its accustomed services. It is, therefore, intended to appeal through the Press for wider public support, in the hope that thoughtful people will join the Institute in large numbers. In furthering this appeal, the active co-operation of readers of *Philosophy* throughout the world is confidently anticipated.

THE HIBBERT JOURNAL

A QUARTERLY REVIEW of RELIGION, THEOLOGY & PHILOSOPHY

Edited by L. P. JACKS

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