

## REVIEWS

dent, to the State, bears the Thomist mark of rising above, while combining, the extremes of individual and State absolutism. It is at once the distinguishing characteristic and the responsibility of the Thomist to 'have it both ways,' and as the facts about St. Thomas's own thought on the subject are still in dispute, one may add this quite general consideration in favour of this theory, as against those who hold that a more unqualified individualism is the true Thomist view.

M. Viance has attempted with some considerable measure of success to present his exposition in a manner conformable and attractive to modern ways of thought, but in spite of this very lively and organic presentation, one misses the formal synthesis which is still a desideratum in this branch of Neo-Thomist philosophy. A sign of this lack of final coherence between the various elements of the doctrine is the indecision shown about the nature of the common good, and its relation to the State and man in his double aspect. In this connection a further developed explanation of the notion of the common good as the formal principle of political society (p. 71) would be welcome, as also a more explicit recognition of the work of personality in transforming that static order, which may be only the appearance of peace, into the peace born of the unity of wills which implies that the common good is in great part achieved. If the book did no more than raise these and similar questions in the mind of the reader it would not be without value; but there is much on the positive side, many true things well said. The opening chapter dealing with the precise nature of political divisions among Catholics is intended primarily for Frenchmen, but it is not without application to those in other countries, and the worth of the general theory as a guide to thought is well shown in the just and incisive estimates of the worth of the present day views and theories of the State both in the chief countries of Europe and in the United States. It would be interesting and profitable to have from the same writer a more detailed and searching discussion of the conceptions of which Thomist politics is making use.

H. C. THOMAS.

**EDUCATION AND BIOLOGY.** By J. A. Lauwerys, B.Sc. (Sands, 5/-.)

The introduction of biology into the ordinary teaching of school children, which appears to be desirable to many, meets with considerable opposition, partly, as is alleged, on account of the lack of time, as well as of qualified teachers, but more particularly because it is felt—not altogether without reason—that biology may be made a vehicle for the propagation of ideas hostile to religion and ethics. This book was written at the

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suggestion of the late Professor E. Bullough, and is an expansion of a report on the position of biology in education, prepared for the University Catholic Federation. Conscious of the difficulties arising from the subject matter of biology itself, Mr. Lauwerys offers this volume, not as an outline of biology, nor as a book of tips for teachers, but as a reasoned analysis of the difficulties involved as, for instance, the question of sexual reproduction, evolution, Darwinism, the mechanistic theory of life, and so on. It is inevitable that in teaching biology such questions should arise, and in regard to the problem of sex which the author maintains *brings itself* into the course, since it is, and should be treated as one of the many natural vital processes, without further ado. The author takes as his standpoint a vitalist—that is, a non-mechanistic—view of life, affirming that biology to be truly biological should rest on an Aristotelian rather than on a Newtonian foundation. The method of teaching should be based on the conception of dynamic types, in which the relations of the parts to the wholes should be stressed.

The notion of dynamic type suggests the plan or method of teaching. Birth is the emergence of type: reproduction of like types is heredity; and departure from a given type is variation. Hence the questions arise, how is the type maintained and how is it perpetuated? These problems in turn may be studied under the headings of organism and environment, nutrition and reproduction, heredity and variation, etc. The book is well thought out and should be very valuable to teachers. It contains in addition to theoretical exposition, chapters specially concerning the syllabus itself, as well as laboratory equipment, which need be neither extensive nor expensive.

G. A. ELRINGTON, O.P.

MODERN PHOTOGRAPHY, 1934-5. (The Studio, Ltd., 5/- in wrappers; 7/6 in cloth).

The purist aestheticians continue to deny that the photographer is or can be an artist. The photographer can bear the excommunication with equanimity. Although even still photography is now breeding theorists of its own, the photographer is relatively free to explore to the utmost the potentialities of his medium unrestricted by *a priori* theory. The latest *Modern Photography*—an excellent and thoroughly representative selection and a considerable improvement on its immediate predecessor—shows that in practice contemporary photographers are, with fullest regard for the distinctive characteristics of their medium, making the most of their opportunities.

We need not pause to dispute with the Wilenskis, though there is not a specimen in this volume, for all their variety,