

(if the anachronism will be pardoned). Aristotle would have used the term 'sophist' or 'dialectician', a man for whom *unity* had usurped the place of *being* as the criterion of intelligibility. Despite these criticisms the reviewer will keep both these books on his shelves: Mr Hampshire's as the best book known to him on Spinoza, Père Philippe's as an excellent *aide-memoire* to what Aristotle said and where he said it.

TIMOTHY McDERMOTT, O.P.

THE NEW OUTLINE OF MODERN KNOWLEDGE. Edited by Alan Pryce-Jones. (Gollancz; 18s.)

There can be no doubt that Mr Pryce-Jones has succeeded in his unenviable task. Instead of producing yet another encyclopaedia of true but uninteresting information, he has inspired the majority of his contributors to discover principles from which the facts can be judged. This presumably is what he means by saying that the book 'has a bias which can loosely be called philosophical', intending by this 'the study of the meanings of things'. Whether 'ordinary people will find it a little easier henceforth to understand the world around them' is uncertain. Some of the authors demand in their readers rather more than uninformed intelligence.

The first of the five sections is on philosophy. Dr Holloway gives a clear account of modern analytic philosophy, and includes some detailed analyses: nothing could be better for bringing old-fashioned philosophers to the light. Professor Zaehner, writing on the religious instinct, deals largely with the relationship of the historical religions to the new 'secular religions', fascism and marxism. The contemporary relevance of this theme typifies what is best in this collection; informed writing that is not in the least 'academic'. The remaining two essays attempt too much in their brief summaries of philosophical positions, and in one of them Dr Hawkins by assimilating the word 'being' to the word 'red' does just what the doctrine of analogy which he is describing was intended to avoid.

The second section on science may well be the one most readily understood by the general public; the technicalities of science are such as to demand popular treatment. Here again the best essays aim beyond the mere presentation of facts to draw out their significance. Thus Professor Zangwill gives us insight into the methods and limitations of experimental psychology, ending with a short and critical though by no means unsympathetic appraisal of analytic methods. In a similar way Professor Waddington has a clear account of the complex subject of genetics, and Mr Beattie explains the attitude and techniques of the social anthropologist, whose subject has so recently yet deservedly attained scientific status. These writers have style, not in the narrow

sense of literary flourish, but because they have found a satisfactory means of interpretation. By contrast Sir Harold Spencer Jones writes like a text-book of astronomy, and Dr Seligman makes the atom rather dull. Two of the more dubious sciences are boldly, and well, included: Dr Porter has a lively yet wholly serious account of the possibilities of space-travel, and Professor Rhine describes those mysterious and rather disquieting experiments which have made the letters ESP familiar to us all. Lastly there is a straightforward cheering account by Lord Amulree of the achievements of modern medicine.

The essays concerned with the arts are perhaps the most successful at finding a unifying point of view. Mr Ironside, who deals with painting, puts forward the thesis that 'the characteristics of Impressionist painting and of every subsequent movement must be considered as in some measure a response to the disturbing influences of the camera', and maintains it with wit and learning. Mr Richards writes well on architecture, explaining lucidly how the modern 'revolution' has been brought about by new materials and new social requirements. Sir Mortimer Wheeler describes with his usual skill the new methods of archaeology and some of their results. Mr Mellers has a fine essay on 'the creative and theoretical aspects of the four great central figures, Schoenberg, Stravinsky, Bartok and Hindemith' of which the intelligent non-musical public will understand not a word; Mr Fraser has suggestive things to say about English and French literature of this century; Sir Leigh Ashton writes about sculpture. Finally Mr Grisewood in a careful analysis of present-day broadcasting and cinema discusses under what conditions they might one day develop into arts.

There are also six essays on politics and economics by well-known authorities, and one by Professor Goodhart on law; these the present reviewer cannot competently assess.

Clearly the range of subjects has been due to the personal choice of the editor, and it would be foolish to criticize his judgment. Better to praise the wisdom of pin-pointing particular aspects of a subject, genetics instead of biology, archaeology instead of history. The book has a daunting Gollancz dust-jacket, emphasizing that it contains 280,000 words, but inside it is sensitive and civilized.

LAURENCE BRIGHT, O.P.

THE GOTHIC CATHEDRAL. By Otto von Simson. (Routledge & Kegan Paul; 42s.)

The normal English approach to Gothic architecture is either descriptive and photographic, with Francis Bond and his successors, or strictly material, with Messrs Knoop and Jones and Mr Salzman. The romantic or mystical approach, of which Pugin and Ruskin were in