

replies Polanyi, once you have eliminated the personal judgement that fitted facts to the new pattern of explanation. Equally natural is the behaviourist view that an organism can be fully understood in terms of its elements, once you have forgotten that the investigator must have known it as an organism before he started to investigate it as such. False ideals of objectivity always produce false philosophy.

I have to admit that this short account of some basic features of Polanyi's thought is largely based on my previous knowledge of it. Nor can I think I am alone among his admirers in finding myself disconcerted by this new attempt to express his thought. But it may not be irrelevant to suggest that admirers of Whitehead were probably just as disconcerted by an earlier set of Gifford lectures. The pressure of ideas which weighs down *Process and Reality* must have made it as difficult to read on its first appearance, and likewise baffled any reviewer without some ten thousand words at his disposal.

LAURENCE BRIGHT, O.P.

THE PHYSICAL WORLD OF THE GREEKS. By S. Sambursky. Translated from the Hebrew by Merton Dagut. (Routledge and Kegan Paul; 25s.)

Professor Sambursky is a distinguished physicist who has been interested for many years in the way in which the Greeks saw and interpreted the physical world around them. The present work is a collection of essays written, as the author tells us, as a kind of commentary of the original Greek texts. It is emphatically not a conventional history of science. In fact, the reader who is unfamiliar with the historical background will be at a disadvantage; chronology is often thrown to the winds and the influence of other civilizations ignored. The author sometimes succumbs to the besetting temptation to practising scientists, to look at the history of their subject in the light of modern discoveries; and occasionally his personal background betrays itself, as in his complete failure to appreciate the medieval contribution.

Having made these criticisms I must hasten to say that for all its faults this book is an outstanding contribution to our understanding of Greek science. Its great merit lies in its being written with the insight which only a practising physicist can bring to the subject. Few authors dare to tackle Greek science at this deep conceptual level, and fewer still have such a complete mastery of the material at their disposal. Read critically, this excellently translated and produced book will bring to life a subject which can all too easily be left for dead.

MICHAEL HOSKIN