

REVIEWS

PHILOSOPHY

PHILOSOPHY OF THE SCIENCES, OR THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENTS OF KNOWLEDGE. By F. R. Tennant, D.D., B.Sc. (Cambridge University Press, 1932; 6/-.)

'This volume,' explains the author, 'contains the Tarner lectures for 1931-2, substantially in the form in which they were delivered.' It is a very important book, though, like so much English writing in the sciences in general, its importance cannot be more than ephemeral. It is important because it is the best attempt that has so far been made by any English writer to meet the problem that is vexing modern science: the reconciliation of the conclusions of the special sciences in the unity of one harmonious Truth.

It is ephemeral because the author attempts to effect this reconciliation on the basis of Psychology. In scientific articles this may pass for to-day but it will not do for ever. It is no more than a learned defence of the popular contemporary notion that everything—religion, education, morality, criminology, science itself—has been fully and philosophically explained when it has been reduced to Psychology. This is not true. The truth is to be found in the doctrine of Aristotle and St. Thomas, that there is only one science, namely Metaphysics, that need not look outside itself for its principles, and only one science, namely Logic, in which the bearing of those principles on the sciences in general (metaphysics now included) can be adequately discussed.

Modern scientists will not escape from their present quandary until they have learned to look first of all to logic for their method, and last of all to metaphysics for a synthesis of their conclusions. Psychology itself is not sufficient for itself until it has forgotten to be practical and by becoming a speculative science opened the way to metaphysics. This doctrine is not very easy to expound to modern scientists precisely because of their lack of logic. Some attempt at constructive work in this direction will appear in these pages shortly.

M.M.

A SURVEY OF SOCIOLOGY. By E. J. Ross. (The Bruce Publishing Co.; \$3.50.)

This work is a material contribution to the philosophy of society, in the sense that it presents systematically the facts which are covered by social theory as viewed by the 'official' Catholic mind. If it does not solve the titanic difficulties of the