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Several papers in the volume consider the nature of metaphysical explanation, its scope and limits. The currently fashionable notion of grounding is taken up by a number of our authors, while there are also papers arguing for optimism about the potential scope of metaphysical explanation and against conservative restrictions on what should be countenanced in metaphysics. The prospects for a Fregean account of number are considered, as well as the question of quantifier variance.

As would be expected, there are papers on such central metaphysical topics as essence, necessity, possibility and identity. Ranging wider, and testifying to the breadth of metaphysics as a subject, there are treatments of free will, of solipsism in Wittgenstein's philosophy of the 1930s, of the nature of social practices, of the notion that the conceptual recommendations of metaphysics are to do with assessing and perhaps changing the way we live, and also a consideration of the ontological status of the foetus and the unborn child.

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