

# THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF PHILOSOPHY

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## INSTITUTE NOTES

### OBJECTS OF THE INSTITUTE

The Royal Institute of Philosophy was founded in order to promote the study of philosophy within the Universities and other educational institutions and also among the educated public generally. It pursues its aim by

- (1) Organizing courses of lectures;
- (2) Providing those of its members who wish for it with advice on philosophical reading;
- (3) Publishing a quarterly journal, *PHILOSOPHY*, in which philosophical problems are discussed and new books reviewed.

Philosophy is a group of studies rather than a single one, and it has been pursued by different methods at different times. The Royal Institute of Philosophy interprets the term in a wide sense, so as to include ethics, aesthetics, metaphysics, the philosophy of religion, logic and the philosophy of science, the philosophy of history, political and social philosophy, and the philosophy of mind, and is not committed to any single school or method. The specialization which has taken place between the sciences and within them has made it desirable for scientists and philosophers to consider, from time to time, the relationships of the sciences to one another and to other aspects of human endeavour. Developments in psychology, psychiatry and social anthropology raise not only scientific and logical problems but also appear relevant to the ways in which men think about religion, morality and law, so that there is a constant need for unprejudiced and detailed inquiry into the precise points at which these developments are relevant and into the consequences which ought to be drawn. It is constantly desirable, too, that there be a renewal of our thinking on the questions of freedom and equality, authority and criticism, tradition and progress, which form the subject-matter of political philosophy. Persisting throughout all social changes is the deep-rooted metaphysical interest in the nature of the soul, its relation to material things, the origin of the world and the place of man in it—problems summed up by Kant as concerned with "God, freedom and immortality".

It is the object of The Royal Institute of Philosophy to provide a forum for the rational discussion of these and similar questions. This requires strenuous thinking, but it is hoped that the services which the Institute provides, and particularly the existence of a journal in which such thinking is carried out in language as free from technicalities as the nature of the subject allows, will help to maintain standards of intellectual appreciation and satisfy a cultural need.

The annual subscription to the Institute is £1 10s. Members receive the Institute's Journal, *PHILOSOPHY*, published quarterly, and may, of course, attend the Lectures.

### ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Full-time students applying for election are eligible for Associate Membership which carries all the privileges of full Membership save that of participating in the government of the Institute. The period during which a student may enjoy Associate Membership is limited to three years, and the subscription is at the much reduced rate of 8s. 6d. per annum.

### CENTRES

Local centres of the Institute have been established at Bangor and Newcastle. The Newcastle Branch holds six discussion meetings a year. Any member who is interested should get in touch with Colin Strang, Dept. of Philosophy, King's College, Newcastle on Tyne 1.

Forms of application for membership may be had on application to the Assistant Secretary at 14 Gordon Square, W.C.1.

# INSTITUTE NOTES

## LECTURES

The following Lectures will be given at 14 Gordon Square, W.C.1, at 5.45 p.m. All dates fall on a Friday.

### *Lent Term 1961*

- January 27th "The Notion of Freedom"  
Professor T. E. Jessop (The University, Hull)
- February 3rd "Belief and Lack of understanding"  
Professor H. H. Price
- February 10th "Description and Idealization"  
Professor S. Körner (The University, Bristol)
- February 17th "A Point of Contact between Ethics and Aesthetics"  
Professor Stuart Hampshire (University College, London)
- February 24th Subject to be announced later  
Professor Dorothy Emmet (The University, Manchester)
- March 3rd "The Concept of a Person"  
Professor A. J. Ayer (New College, Oxford)
- March 10th "Leibniz on the Metaphysical Foundations of Science"  
Professor L. J. Russell
- March 17th "Some Reflections on Logical Positivism"  
The Rev. F. C. Copleston, S.J., M.A. (Heythrop College, Chipping Norton)

In addition, to mark the centenary of the birth of Alfred North Whitehead, a Symposium will be held on Tuesday, February 14, 1961, at 6.00 p.m. Speakers will be announced later.

## NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

- P. F. STRAWSON Author of *Introduction to Logical Theory* (1952) and *Individuals* (1959). Mr. Strawson has recently been elected a Fellow of the British Academy.
- RUTH LYDIA SAW Reader in Philosophy and Head of the Department of Philosophy at Birkbeck College, University of London. Author of *The Vindication of Metaphysics: a Study in the Philosophy of Spinoza* (1951) and *Leibniz* (Pelican Books, 1954).
- HAIG KHATCHADOURIAN Assistant Professor of Philosophy, American University, Beirut, Lebanon. He has contributed papers to *Philosophy of Science*, the *Journal of Philosophy*, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* etc.
- G. H. R. PARKINSON Lecturer in Philosophy at the University of Reading. Author of *Spinoza's Theory of Knowledge* (1954).
- E. J. FURLONG Professor of Philosophy at Trinity College, Dublin. Author of *A Study in Memory* (1951), and of articles in *Mind*, *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society*, etc.
- ANTHONY QUINTON See PHILOSOPHY, Vol. XXXV, No. 132, p. 93.
- KARL BRITTON Professor of Philosophy at King's College, Newcastle. Author of *Communication: A Philosophical Study of Language* (1939) and *John Stuart Mill* (Pelican Books, 1953) and of articles in *Mind*, *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society*, PHILOSOPHY, etc.

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- KEITH GUNDERSON and RICHARD ROUTLEY: Mr. Rescher's Reformulation of the Ontological Proof.  
J. J. C. SMART: Sensations and Brain Processes: a Rejoinder.  
S. A. GRAVE: Moral Distinctions in a State of Nature.

### CRITICAL NOTICE:

- D. H. MONRO: Ewing's *Second Thoughts in Moral Philosophy* and Hartland-Swann's *An Analysis of Morals*.

REVIEWS, BOOKS RECEIVED, NOTES AND NEWS.

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