

"leading eventually to the stage when man himself will be able to explore the environment of the planet Earth".

L'Univers Aléatoire. By Philippe Wehrlé. 459 pp. Editions du Griffon, Neuchâtel, Switzerland, 1956. Fr. 38.00. *Reviewed by R. B. Lindsay, Brown University.*

This volume is one of the latest in the publishers' "Bibliothèque Scientifique". The author is a physicist who has given much attention to the turbulent motion of fluids, particularly with reference to meteorological problems. The present work, however, is an endeavor to present what may be called a philosophical reconstruction of physics in the endeavor to escape from what the author considers the unfortunate dichotomy of deterministic physics on the one hand and the probability interpretation of quantum mechanics on the other. The author refuses to take sides in this controversy, is not satisfied with any half-way measures on compromises and presents what he considers to be a completely new philosophical synthesis. Taking his cue from the physics of the atmosphere he insists on making every conceptual element at the basis of physical theorizing aleatory in character, i.e., ultimately based on contingency or probability. Thus in his view space and time themselves must have a contingent foundation and all probability distributions descriptive of physical situations become random functions of time.

What all this means has been rather difficult for the reviewer to grasp, partly because of the all-embracing character of the synthesis, which is more typically philosophical than physical, and partly because of the almost complete absence of analytical treatment of special cases, by which alone the physicist usually feels he gets an understanding of any theory. Physicists are in general suspicious of any point of view which pretends to subsume all physical experience. It is unlikely that they will show enthusiasm for the world picture presented by the author of this work until he produces results of more concrete nature.

Mysteries of Science: A Study of the Limitations of the Scientific Method. By John Rowland. 214 pp. Philosophical Library, Inc., New York, 1957. \$6.00. *Reviewed by J. C. Polkinghorne, University of Edinburgh.*

The purpose of this book is to show that there are more things in heaven and on earth than are discussed in scientific journals and that a religious view of life is possible. All this I firmly believe but I found myself exasperated by the arguments presented here.

The author surveys, in successive chapters, physics, biology, psychology, sociology, and a curious unclassifiable collection ranging over the sublime and the ridiculous, from mysticism to flying saucers. Everywhere he is in search for what he considers to be mysteries. In physics, the uncertainty principle apparently furnishes one example. Another example is the nature of electricity. Mr. Rowland will have no answer to this question in terms of charges and fields. One is reminded of the

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