

Multidisciplinary Essays

Mind, Matter, and Method: Essays in Philosophy and Science in Honor of Herbert Feigl (University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, 1966. 531 pp., illus. \$9.75), edited by Paul Feyerabend and Grover Maxwell, contains articles by 26 contributors, many of them distinguished philosophers, psychologists, or physicists. The more scientific pieces are often rather technical, but all of them deal with matters sufficiently fundamental and controversial so that a philosophical flavor is maintained throughout. The book is divided into three parts: Philosophy of Mind and Related Issues; Induction, Confirmation, and Philosophical Method; and Philosophy of the Physical Sciences. This division aptly reflects Feigl's wide-ranging interests, but does not succeed entirely in binding together this exceedingly diverse and multidisciplinary collection. This disunity is compounded by the circumstance that almost all of the articles presuppose distinct literatures; except in a few cases, there is little overlap among their bibliographies.

Though several of the contributions appear to be occasional pieces, most of them represent substantial research within their respective fields; a few are valuable as summaries of previous work. I shall discuss some of the articles which struck me as most interesting.

Paul Meehl's "The compleat autocerebroscopist: A thought-experiment on Professor Feigl's mind-body identity thesis" is far more wide-ranging than its title indicates, being a comprehensive and penetrating examination of "pragmatic" difficulties facing the identity theory of mind and body. Though frankly inconclusive as to the mind-body problem itself, this article succeeds in illuminating and ordering many of the concepts which in recent years have been developed in the study of this question.

Both Wilfrid Sellars's and Adolph Grünbaum's contributions are important and thought-provoking critiques, of phenomenalism and of the thesis that any scientific hypothesis can be "saved" by suitable adjustment of background theoretical assumptions. But versions of these articles have previously appeared in print.

In his "Verifiability and logic," Wesley Salmon proposes that the notion of empirical verifiability be explicated by means of concepts from inductive as well as from deductive logic. His tentative formulation of such an explication

encounters difficulties which, I suspect, cannot be overcome so long as the criterion of deductive validity is truth-functional.

Henryk Mehlberg's "Relativity and the atom" contains some valuable general remarks concerning special relativity, as well as an axiomatic "world geometry," proposed as an abstract relativity theory applicable to both micro- and macro-phenomena. This system is rather sketchily presented, and it is to be hoped that the author will soon publish a fuller account of it.

Wolfgang Yourgrau combines in his "Language, spatial concepts, and physics" the suggestion that topological concepts might be fruitfully applied in the physical sciences, with a polemic against Euclidean (and, apparently, metric) geometries. While the former point may have some merit, the latter is much overstated; it seems highly unlikely that metric or even Euclidean spaces will lose their mathematical or physical importance. Also, it is difficult to see the relevance to these matters of the psychological points made by the author.

A few generalizations can be made about the articles in this collection, in spite of their diversity. Almost all of them make use of concepts from symbolic logic; even where their topic is far removed from logical matters, many of the contributors will occasionally make points by means of logical notation. Quite striking also, throughout the book, is the rigor of thought and clarity of expression which men like Feigl have done so much to promote in philosophy.

The volume contains a lively biographical sketch of Feigl (by Feyerabend) and a bibliography of his writings to 1965.

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Issues of Urban Life

One of the great problems of urban man in the 20th century is an information gap. This is the gap between the vastly increasing knowledge about the problems and issues of urban life available among our leading scholars and the very limited knowledge on which the public and its political leaders generally base community action. The past decade has witnessed an ex-

traordinary amount of penetrating research focused on the metropolis by civic organizations like New York's Regional Plan Association; university researchers in the fields of economics, sociology, political science, and public planning; governmental agencies concerned with urban policy in the areas of transportation, land development, and social welfare programs; and other research groups.

Two university scholars of outstanding ability, Martin Meyerson and Edward C. Banfield, were given an opportunity in Boston during the past four years to attempt a bridging of the urban information gap. They were invited by Boston business leaders to publish a series of 12 essays on key public-policy topics. These reached a mass audience by being printed as full-page, uncensored advertisements in the daily newspapers of the area. In **Boston: The Job Ahead** (Harvard University Press, Cambridge, 1966. 127 pp., illus. \$3.95), the essays are made available in hard-cover form. Attractive in style not only to the thoughtful book-reading general public but to high-school and college students as well, the book will have an impact on the voting citizens of Boston's next generation.

It is fascinating to see how the authors analyze a wide variety of the city's public issues and the specific strategies they propose for coping with Boston's future. In the hands of authors not so well qualified, this sort of two-man braintrust might be a risky enterprise, susceptible to the twin dangers of superficiality and idiosyncratic outlook. That these dangers have been largely avoided is a tribute to the writers—Meyerson, an educational administrator of immense intellectual scope, and Banfield, a political scientist with great vigor of mind and a capacity to see events clearly through many sets of eyes in addition to his own.

The chapters run the gamut of what currently worries metropolitan man: how to split governmental power and taxes among the city, the suburbs, and the state; the high costs, confusions, and unfavorable trends in public transport and freight-handling; the creation of adequate incentives for private investment to revitalize central areas; the unique disabilities of the crucial commodity, housing; the dangerous impasse in Boston's public education program that blocks action in this fundamental urban function; the special problems of today's youth in big cities and of maintaining public safety; and