

It is not clear why Dr. Borek chose from du Nouy's book this particular selection which, out of context, carries no hint of the powerful philosophical argument against materialism which *The Road to Reason* presents. But it is ironic indeed that Dr. Borek's criticism of du Nouy for having abandoned "buttressed reasoning and cautious utterance" applies more aptly to Dr. Borek's own, unfounded naturalistic assertions.

This reviewer is conscious of having possibly committed an error of exaggeration; of having made too much of a small thing in so strongly criticizing Dr. Borek's little book. The justification for such criticism is expressed in the following quotation from the same book which Dr. Borek criticized, namely, du Nouy's *Road to Reason*. "Unfortunately, certain scientists who profess to scorn philosophy and to despise metaphysics think that they can suppress the objects of metaphysics by showing that these objects—God and the soul amongst others—have no place in [an explanation of the universe] . . . we should not blame them for reasoning falsely when dealing with non-scientific matters, for that is not their field, and the results can only harm themselves. But when they abuse the prestige that their purely technical work has given them and attempt to spread these ideas among the young, one is justified in criticizing their anti-scientific spirit and in deploring the fact that their arguments contain elements of passion that no more belong in the embryo of the mathematical scheme they defend than do the convictions they reproach others for having."

CHARLES S. COLE

BOOK NOTES

ALICE IN BIBLE LAND, by George Willis; pp. 54; price \$2.75.

A series of conversations in which Alice asks inconvenient questions on theology. She insists that her grandfather is in the grave. Her grandmother, shocked, says he is in heaven. But Alice insists he is in the grave; for every Sunday they recite the creed which says that Jesus will come again and that there will then be a resurrection of bodies. Her grandmother is bothered and calls in the pastor. But he fares no better, and after facing questions which he cannot answer, he pulls out his watch and says, "My goodness, I had no idea it was so late. I must hurry away." A. A.

GENTILE REACTIONS TO JEWISH IDEALS, by Jacob S. Raisin. The Philosophical Library, New York; pp. 876, including Index. Price \$7.50.

The first part of this work is devoted to showing the Israelites as missionaries. Even their marriages with women of other faiths were acts of propaganda. Their frequent relapses to idolatry are glossed over, and the moral teachings of the Old Testament are quoted as showing their true character. Jesus is represented as not claiming to be the son of God or the Messiah. It was Paul who made this claim, and had it not been for him, the followers of Christ would now have been a Jewish sect, even if they believed that Christ was the promised Messiah.

The second part is devoted to showing the persecution to which Jews have been subjected all over Europe.

The work with its many anecdotes, its quotations from the Talmud, some fantastic and others full of wit and wisdom, makes interesting reading and is replete with historical lore. A. A.

THE NEW CHURCH IN OHIO, Ophia D. Smith, 1953. New Church Library, Cincinnati, Ohio. Price \$1.00.

This publication consists of reprints of three articles from The July, October (1952) and January (1953) issues of the *Ohio State Archeological and Historical Quarterly*. It is a detailed and comprehensive account of the history of the New Church in Ohio from its beginnings in 1797 to the year 1870, but is not likely to be continued, as the third installment is declared to be the last of the series. The work is the result of a painstaking research into New Church periodicals, many of which are now exceedingly rare, supplemented by a number of Ohio periodicals and books, the existence of which might otherwise have remained entirely unknown to the New Church historian. From this material, Mrs. Smith has woven a story which will be of interest to all New Churchmen. What strikes me in reading this and other accounts of the establishing of the New Church is the self-sacrificing devotion of our pioneers.

The first of these was William Grant, "a blind and crippled Irish Scholar." Since his blindness at the age of five, his aunt "in reading the Bible to him, always puzzled over the words she read, be-

lieving that there must be some inner significance that she could not discern." Grant's infirmity had served to sharpen his intelligence, and he soon became convinced that both church and state were permeated with falsities, and he did not hesitate to declare this "to rulers of state and church in his native Ireland." He came to America in the 1790's, and in Philadelphia, in 1795, when he was twenty-two years old, he was introduced to a knowledge of the doctrines of the New Church by Francis Bailey—one of the first two New Churchmen in America. Predisposed perhaps by his Aunt's early doubts, and still more by his own realization of the falsities ruling in the Old Church, he readily accepted the new Revelation. In 1797 he came to Steubenville, Ohio, being the first New Churchman to visit that State. Here he made no secret of his belief, and was daily attacked both by clergy and laity.

William Grant soon became acquainted with David Powell Senior who had received the doctrines in 1798, and the two men soon formed a circle of readers.

Then in 1800 came John Chapman (Johnny Appleseed) carrying Swedenborgian books and tracts. He was no illiterate crackpot, says Mrs. Smith, but "was thoroughly conversant with the Bible and with whatever Swedenborgian writings he could procure. He could present points of New Church doctrine with skill and cogency."

Something new concerning this remarkable man is given us by Mrs. Smith from the James' MSS, namely, that about 1820 he wrote to the Philadelphia Society of the New Church offering "to deed to them a quarter section of land near Wooster in exchange for New Church publications." In the same letter, he reported an increase of receivers "all around Wooster" and as far as Detroit.

Much more that is new is culled from the James' MSS. Thus, there is a letter from Mr. Schlatter of Philadelphia, expressing himself as to Thomas Worcester's teaching, that a pastor is the husband of his society. "One of their perceptions," he writes, "is that Mr. Thomas Worcester must be their spiritual guide, and he had a *perception that the lady* he married was his *conjugal* partner the first time he ever saw her, and that they then *perceived* that they must be *married* before he could be ordained.

The James' papers also throw some interesting light on the difficulties experienced by the Rev. Richard de Charms, when he

became pastor of the first Cincinnati Society, owing to opposition by a lady of the James' family.

Particularly interesting is the item from the James' papers proving that Lincoln had at least one copy of the Writings. James was opposed to Lincoln's policy on constitutional grounds, yet he also admired him. After Lincoln's assassination, he wrote in the *Urbana Union*. "No other man could equal Lincoln as peacemaker among warring party factions." He was deeply touched by the death, in February 1862, of Lincoln's young son Willie, and on March 17, he sent the President a marked volume of the *Arcana Coelestia*. "Even if you do not receive this as true," he wrote, "it may comfort you much to think of your boy as living now with all his memory complete, growing in wisdom, and fitting for a life of use—and that he will know you when you meet him." *

The work is printed in good type and is thoroughly documented, the various sources being given in footnotes—happily printed at the foot of the pages.

A. A.

ATOMIC WEAPONS IN LAND COMBAT by Col. G. E. Reinhart, C. E. U. S. Army, and Lt. Col. W. R. Kintner, Inf. U. S. Army. The Military Service Publishing Co., Harrisburg, Pa. Pages 180; price \$3.95.

This work is not a description of the atom bomb but solely of its use in land warfare. The authors commence with a clearly expressed explanation of the after effects of the bomb, and here they dispel much of the gloomy fears so widely held after the explosion in Japan.

The authors then explain in a highly technical way, and yet one that can be understood by the layman, how the bomb is to be used in actual warfare, and the modes of defending against its use by the enemy. With the use of the atom bomb, the fundamental principles of warfare are unchanged, but their application involves many new problems which are clearly set forth.

The work is a pioneer in its field, but so clear and comprehensive that it would not be surprising if it comes to be regarded as a classic. It is highly pleasing to note that one of its authors is a graduate of the Schools of The Academy of the New Church. A. A.

* This letter was quoted in an earlier publication, "Buckeye Titan" by Dr. and Mrs. Smith.