

Reviews

Zygon's intention is to foster a new intellectual community, conversant with the general history and implications of the sciences as well as with the past, present, and future functions of man's religions and values. In calling the study of the interrelations of science and religion a "new" field, we do not imply that none has worked it before our time but, rather, that present efforts are too scattered to create the critical mass necessary to the generation of common conceptual schemes and truly cumulative knowledge.

We intend to provide a comprehensive acquaintance with present efforts and some review of past achievements. We shall print reviews of contemporary books and articles as well as selected past classics. We shall also regularly review periodical literature to bring together for better reference many significant contributions now appearing in specialized journals.

Subsequent issues will contain a more substantial Review section. For this issue, it seemed essential to print together all the papers from the Meadville conference. We will naturally welcome suggestions for books to be reviewed in future issues.

R.B.T.

The Relevance of Science: Creation and Cosmogony. By C. F. VON WEIZSACKER.
New York: Harper, 1964. 192 pages. \$5.00.

The substance of this book is contained in eight lectures on the history of man's understanding of creation and cosmology. These begin with a treatment of cosmogonical myths and end with modern evolutionary theory and astronomy. They include treatments of the Old Testament, Greek philosophy, Christianity, and leading thinkers from Copernicus to Kant. In these chapters the author's brilliant gift for lucid expression, readily intelligible to the non-specialist, is once again apparent.

This historical material is inclosed between an introductory and a concluding chapter in which its relevance to our present situation is explained. The thesis is presented that science has now taken over the role formerly played by religion, thus giving rise to the phenomenon of scientism. Scientism is negatively judged because science, despite its immense merits, is unable to determine the use to which it is put. Science is a child of Christian faith and probably could not have arisen apart from the belief in order engendered by the Christian belief in God. The rise of science is also to be seen as a part of the larger process of secularization, a process grounded in the de-deification of