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extraordinary reports in view of the many instances of fraud connected with physical mediums, including some of the same ones mentioned in this book? Was Miss Marryat so eager to prove survival that she overlooked obvious collusion and muslim-bedecked mediums? Or was Spiritualism 100 years ago truly blessed with a galaxy of mediums who could in fact produce physical phenomena? With so few physical mediums available today, I can neither accept nor completely reject her evidence on the basis of personal experience. All we can do is study the fascinating evidence Miss Marryat presents and decide for ourselves whether she has proven her point, that there is no death. — *Robert H. Ashby.*

THE PHILOSOPHY OF CONSCIOUSNESS WITHOUT AN OBJECT by Franklin Merrell-Wolff, Julian Press, New York, N.Y., 1973, 265 pages, \$8.50.

This volume closely follows the author's earlier *Pathways Through To Space*, which I reviewed in the March 1974 issue. Although Merrell-Wolff states that it is unnecessary to have read *Pathways* to understand this present book, I strongly advise you to be familiar with the earlier volume before tackling the second. Both books are relatively meaningless to a devotee of subject-object science. The author asks the reader to entertain the possibility of mystical insight and judge the philosophical consequences from that base.

Consciousness-without-an-object is the sole reality upon which all objects and all selves depend and from which they derive their existence. It represents all possibilities including phenomena, noumena, universes and states of nirvana but is specifically identified with no one possibility. It might be defined as root-consciousness that ties in with

and amplifies the concept of universal consciousness.

Fifty-four aphorisms with the author's interpretation elucidate this subject and help immensely toward greater understanding. I found the section on time and timelessness particularly lucid. I am unsure of the ultimate stature of these books but I get the feeling of greatness. Merrell-Wolff handles incredibly complex and abstract subjects extremely well and probably as simply as possible. As a scientist-sensitive he is in a unique position to view "both worlds."

Personally I was able to handle only a chapter or two at a time without stopping for mental rest. I read the aphorisms one at a time and let the impact sink in before proceeding. Slowly the veil of semantic confusion lifted. No doubt I will reread both volumes several more times. Reading Merrell-Wolff will prove hard work for most readers but will be worth the time and effort.

— Paul Severson.

THE JESUS SCROLL by Donovan Joyce, The Dial Press, New York, N.Y., 1973, 216 pages, \$5.95.

Some years back James Hall Roberts' novel *The Q Document* quite entertainingly portrayed what could happen if an ancient scroll were found that might discredit the divinity of Jesus Christ. Now Donovan Joyce presents that theme based on the most nebulous of facts. His main thesis — that Jesus did not die on the cross but survived to lead a group of rebel Jews and finally died at Masada — is based on a chance meeting with a mysterious "Professor Grosset" in a bar at Lod Airport.

Of course Joyce *may* have met a man with a purloined scroll. But where is the proof that "Grosset's" scroll contained authentic information? And even if the scroll did contain anti-Jesus material, it may have

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BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS

The Psychology of Consciousness by Robert E. Ornstein, published by W. H. Freeman & Co., San Francisco, paperback, 247 pages, \$3.50.

In these present hectic, fast moving times the word 'consciousness' is probably more frequently heard than ever before. The question: 'Did you ever sit and ponder why we are here and what this life is all about?' is considered practical by people everywhere. Recognition is increasing that humanity has been living by wrong values for a long time and that what a man has is of far less importance than what he is.

Consciousness is more than awareness. As used in philosophy and esoteric research, it implies at least some understanding of what one is aware of. Increasingly it escapes the limitations of what the physical senses can register. Consciousness goes far beyond mere registration. One can be conscious of the effect upon oneself of an idea. If the idea is false the effect is bad. If it is true the effect is good, even if discomfoting.

The ancient mystery schools taught, and modern esotericism accepts, that the purpose of human evolution is the development of mental consciousness. When physical, emotional and mental consciousness is coordinated and synchronised and acting unitedly, then soul consciousness can be achieved and registered in the physical brain. Then for the first time you have a whole man in manifestation. The highest spiritual concept teaches that man not only *has* a soul, but *is* a soul, which is a manifestation of the divine life and that every human fragment of that life has latent divine quality. A human being in incarnation is a soul using mental, emotional and physical mechanisms for self-expression in a divine Plan.

The above remarks may serve as a backdrop for the consideration of *The Psychology of Consciousness*. Professor Ornstein's other books are, *The Experience of Time* and *The Psychology of Meditation*. In this book, an attempt is made to reconcile rational and intuitive knowledge. Basic to the theme is the fact that the human brain consists of two parts similar in size and shape, and performing two distinct functions in human consciousness. For consciousness to be effective in human life on the physical plane, it must be registered in the physical brain. This the right half of the brain can do, including intuitional and spiritual ideas. The author deals with traditional esoteric psychology and the new synthesis including the subtle body energies, non-attachment, magic words, biological rhythms and psychological self-control.

FOSTER BAILEY

The *Beacon* editors acknowledge receipt of the following books:

Life is for Loving, by Eric Butterworth, published by Harper & Row, New York, etc., hardbound, 97 pages, \$4.95.

In a discussion of what love is, rather than what love is not, Mr. Butterworth presents love not as sentimental emotionalism, but as the vital, cosmic energy flowing through us all. The book is ob-

viously intended to challenge the reader to deeper study and meditation, through new insight into the reality of love. Ranging from thoughts on marriage and sex, he considers loneliness, and says: 'Until you touch the love that is you, you can never touch the love that is another . . . Man is never less alone than when he is alone'. An interesting comment on employment is 'There are no interesting jobs. There are only interested people who invest a very special spark and spirit in everything they do, lending an aura of enchantment to their involvement which, incidentally, may well be the secret of success'. The book is both refreshing and uplifting, broadening and inspiring.

The Philosophy of Consciousness Without an Object, by Franklin Merrell-Wolff, published by The Julian Press, Inc., New York, hardbound \$8.50.

This philosophic work is the author's life-long study and search for realisation expressed as reasoned thought and rational clarity, carried out 'with mathematical completeness'. It is flavoured by understanding and study of the Oriental spiritual concepts and at times seems quite Zen in approach. In this book the author hoped to 'fill the gaps left in the earlier work', *Pathways Through to Space*.

A God Within, by Rene Dubos, published by Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, paperback, \$2.95; hardbound \$8.95.

Quoting from the Preface: 'I wrote the last chapter of *A God Within* while collaborating in the preparation of a report (*Only One Earth: The Care and Maintenance of Our Small Planet*) for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment. As a member of an international team, I had to think in global terms about the earth; each part of our planet is related to every other part and each earthling belongs to the family of man. As author of *A God Within*, in contrast, I deal with the distinctive genius of each place and each person.

These two attitudes are not incompatible; in fact they are complementary. From family to clan, from clan to nation, from nation to federation, enlargements of allegiance have occurred throughout the history of mankind without weakening the earlier loves. We can develop a rational loyalty to planet Earth while maintaining an emotional attachment to our prized diversity. The present book might have been entitled "In Praise of Diversity".

The Spiritual Hierarchy of the World, by Michal J. Eastcott, published by Sundial House, Tunbridge Wells, England, paperback 50p.

This book is 'an attempt to tell the story of the Spiritual Hierarchy which guides and guards our planet' and contains a number of quotations taken from the Alice A. Bailey books.

↓
send
to
Dr
Wolff