in the efforts made to regulate the number of students entering different types of technical schools in accordance with industrial requirements, so as to prevent dislocation of industry or of social life. Similarly, the course of social science which is compulsory in university education might perhaps be adopted with advantage in our own system.

The author has given us a book which cannot well be passed over by anyone who, whatever his political creed, is interested in the impact of science on society and the capacity of man to adapt himself to new conditions.

The Philosophy of Religion *versus* The Philosophy of Science:
an Exposure of the Worthlessness and Absurdity of some Conventional Conclusions of Modern Science. By Albert Eagle. Pp. 352. (Manchester: The Author, University; London: Simpkin Marshall, Ltd., 1935.) *5s.*

THIS book is a somewhat emotional outburst written in an extremely unconventional style and evidently intended for the non-scientific reader. The author is a mathematical lecturer but he is violently opposed to 'relativity' ideas in physics and astronomy. He raises an interesting question too often overlooked by mathematicians—Is not mathematics merely a shorthand of symbols? Are not the fundamental realities of space and time based on the structure of our own minds and not on facts independent of us but observed by us? Is there a fundamental distinction between what Bergson calls 'duration', which is real time, and mathematical time, which is a convenient fiction? Was T. H. Huxley right when he said that mathematics is not a science but a machine?

Another object of the author's attack is the materialistic philosophy as preached by some biologists. It is well known that quite a number of biologists do hold the view that all the peculiar features of life are to be accounted for by the chemical composition of protoplasm, but this is not true of all; and as the author says, the most distinguished physiologists repudiate this conclusion. Dr. Eagle especially objects to a recent book on popular biology by some of the younger biologists—all of them specialists in narrow fields—in which occur dogmatic statements about materialism being the ascertained conclusion of science, and also on the nature of heredity and the method of evolution. Such a book is calculated to injure the cause of science by associating it in the popular mind with 'mechanistic' philosophy and morals.

E. W. M.

The Digestive Tract:
a Radiological Study of its Anatomy, Physiology and Pathology. By Dr. Alfred E. Barclay. Second edition. Pp. xxxvi+427. (Cambridge: At the University Press, 1936.) 36*s.* net.

IT is not surprising that within a very short time a second edition of a book of such outstanding merit as Barclay's "The Digestive Tract" should be called for. The foundation laid by the first edition is, however, so solid that, little being required in the way of alteration, the author can be content with merely bringing the book up to date. He introduces notes on the latest developments in technique, such as X-ray cinematography, a branch of the science of radiography, at present in its infancy, which should prove of great utility in investigations of the movements of the digestive organs in health and disease.

The author has for many years been concerned about the safety of workers in X-ray departments; it is reassuring to find that he now allows a higher safety limit of exposure than that laid down in his first edition.

The book not only has an appeal to the systematic reader who wishes to study the subject in its entirety, but also it will undoubtedly give many hours of pleasure to the more casual reader who merely wishes to 'browse'. It is written by one who is not content with blindly accepting the 'dicta' of his predecessors, who not only looks at his subject from widely different angles, but who also consistently probes beneath the surface. The illustrations throughout the book are of the highest quality and much may be learnt from a perusal of these alone.

Whilst appreciating that the book represents a radiological study of the anatomy, physiology and pathology of the digestive tract, one cannot help feeling that its value would be enhanced by a fuller account of the clinical aspects of the lesions described. This is not by way of a criticism, but is put forward as a tentative suggestion worthy of consideration in future editions.

R. E. ROBERTS.

Scientific Progress
(Sir Halley Stewart Lectures, 1935.) By Sir James Jeans, Sir William Bragg, Prof. E. V. Appleton, Prof. E. Mellanby, Prof. J. B. S. Haldane, Prof. Julian Huxley. Pp. 210. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., 1936.) 7*s.* 6*d.* net.

THE Sir Halley Stewart Lectures, 1935, reproduced in this volume were dealt with in NATURE at the time of their delivery. The collected volume offers the opportunity of intercomparison in relation to the aims of the Sir Halley Stewart Trust, with their concern for the prevention and removal of human misery, the social relationships of man, the development of body, mind and spirit in the individual, of just environment in the community, and of "peace on earth" through international goodwill. The placing of the six lecturers in this series on "Scientific Progress" is an excellent, if highly individual and invidious, exercise. One reader would unhesitatingly put J. B. S. Haldane first, would hesitate between Mellanby and Huxley for second place, and with renewed firmness put Sir James Jeans last. So much for a physicist's view. What would the biologist say?