KEITH FOX

Editorial

In this issue

This issue contains three main articles. The first, by James Ungureanu, describes how historical-critical scholarship influenced the relationship between science and religion in the Victorian era. Ungureanu argues that most of the promoters of 'scientific naturalism,' including people like Thomas H. Huxley, John Tyndall, and Herbert Spencer, developed their views on the relationship between science and religion in response to historical-critical scholarship. Even John W. Draper and Andrew D. White, the founders of the conflict thesis, were significantly affected by this literature. By examining how historical criticism played a significant role in the thought of these writers the author reexamines the origins and meaning of the science-religion debate at the end of the nineteenth century.

The second article, by Philip Senter, considers in detail the nature of the creature Behemoth, which is described in Job chapter 40. The identity of this beast has been discussed for centuries, but more recently is has become a favourite of some Young Earth creationists, who cite this passage as 'evidence' that ancient humans co-existed with dinosaurs and were created by God on the same day about six thousand years ago. Arguing from Zoology and Biblical Hebrew, Senter shows that there is no argument that Behemoth is a dinosaur, but interprets it as a primordial, supernatural monster.

The third paper by Michael Politz explores the concept of material causality in modern science. He examines and challenges this using the examples of Big Bang theory and the mind/body problem. He uses the classical Thomistic view of causality and explains how reintroducing immaterial causality removes both explanatory gaps, thereby allowing explanation of the mechanics of both the origin of the universe and the mind/body problem.

The papers by George Coghill and Malcolm Jeeves are the authors' personal reflections on the life of Donald MacKay, which they presented at the CiS Autumn conference in 2022, 'The Clockwork Image – Humanity, Artificial Intelligence and God', which celebrated the 100th anniversary of Donald M MacKay.

As well as the usual compilation of book reviews, this issue contains a lengthy Essay Review by David McIlroy on Iain McGilchrist's massive book 'The Matter with Things: Our Brains, Our Delusions, and the Unmaking of the World' (1500 pages in two volumes), which is a demolition of reductive materialism, naturalism, and scientism. McGilchrist debunks the 'nothing buttery' of reductive materialism and gives his own views of consciousness, material reality, and how we should understand their inter-relatedness, concluding with a position that

amounts to panentheistic process theology. McKilroy sees much that is good in this work, but he presents a specifically Christian response and critique.

Obituary

I am sorry to tell you that Prof. John White died last August. He had been a member of the S&CB Editorial Board for over 20 years. John was a Founding Member of ISCAST, the Australian sister organisation of Christians in Science, which was established in 1987. John White served as ISCAST President from 1992 to 2006. Emeritus Professor John Pilbrow, ISCAST President 2006–2009, has written an obituary for John White, which can be found on the ISCAST website at https://iscast.org/news/tribute-to-emeritus-professor-john-william-white/

Keith Fox is Editor of *Science & Christian Belief*, Emeritus Professor of Biochemistry in Southampton University and former Director of the Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge