KEITH FOX

Editorial

This issue of S&CB contains two main articles. The first considers the current level of activity in science and religion. In this article Sam McKee notes the need for strong engagement between them but highlights the danger that this can become a topic that is only of interest to specialist academics. Scientific discoveries and applications advance at a rapid rate and can outpace conversations about its interaction with religion, a problem which is especially acute in the life sciences. McKee calls for engagement at three levels. Firstly, academic and popular discussion of the relationship between science and religion. Secondly the need for popular science communication to the wider public and its religious implications. And thirdly, better awareness of current scientific research and technological innovations. He highlights the danger that we repeat past debates and ignore current scientific advances, noting especially the lack of Christian engagement with artificial intelligence, genetics and genome modification.

The second article, by Marcus Ross, contains further consideration of Joshua Swamidass', book on the Genealogical Adam and Eve (GAE). This book was discussed at length in the previous issue of S&CB, but this article was submitted before publication of the other contributions, and was therefore considered as an independent contribution. Swamidass' (GAE) hypothesis claims that by 1 AD all living humans could share genealogical ancestry with a single person (Adam) who lived as recently as 6,000 years ago. Ross' article examines some of the scientific background to this hypothesis and raises substantial criticisms of the timeline that is proposed by GAE including the arbitrary choice of 1 AD, and the effect of isolated populations (Tasmania).

The starting assumptions of some of these recent contributions is that the Genesis text implies a de novo creation of Adam and Eve. I suspect that relatively few UK readers of S&CB take that position, and there are other interpretations of the Biblical understanding of Adam and Eve which have previously been published in this journal[1].

The issue contains two further discussions on the religious (Christian) implications of Iaian McGilchrist's massive work on 'The Matter with Things' as well as correspondence in which Sam McKee appeals for Christian discussion

1 Lucas, E.C., Alexander, D.R., Berry, R.J., Briggs, G.A.D., Humphreys, C.J., Jeeves, M.A. and Thisleton, A.C. 'The Bible, Science and Human Origins'. *Science and Christian Belief* 27: 74-99, 2016.

of futurism and then one final response to the GAE debate by Andrew Loke.

As usual, this issue contains reviews of fourteen recently published science-religion books, as well as an extended Essay Review by Ernest Lucas on Hans Madueme's book 'Defending Sin: A Response to the Challenges of Evolution and the Natural Sciences'. We hope that these reviews will be helpful in guiding your personal reading. If you notice a new book that is worth reading then please contact Todd Kantchev, the book Reviews Editor, who will be pleased to consider a review.

A new idea

The Committee of Christians in Science have suggested that for each issue we might hold an online discussion of one of the articles, hopefully with the author. The details of how this will work have yet to be decided, but keep an eye on the CiS website (www.cis.org.uk) for further details.

Editorship

I have now been the editor of S&CB for 12 years, and have said that I think that it is time to hand this on to someone else. There is presently no urgency for this change, but I'd like to hand this over as soon as realistically possible. I'd be pleased to chat with anyone who might consider that this is something that they could do.

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.