

INTRODUCTION

Our first THS volume has been favorably received. Now we are presenting to the Reader our second volume, expecting further comments and suggestions which would concern problems deserving interdisciplinary approach and debate. We reconfirm our major intention to promote interdisciplinary confrontation within the university framework, concerning not only theoretical consideration but also practical investigations of representatives of various sciences. The volume presented below contains both theoretical and historical papers and it is opened by M. Bunge who approaches the issue of materialist ontology in terms analyzing its definitions, postulates and propositions, from the point of view of 'exactness and consistency within contemporary science'. Then S. Haack presents difficulties linked with the 'coherentism' view and discusses one of the tentative efforts to avoid them, namely L. Bonjour's *The Structure of Empirical Knowledge* (1985). Next we have R. Nugayev, who as the only author from Russia in the volume, while putting forward the question: 'How the laws of physics can be confronted with experience', discusses Nancy Cartwright's argumentation and puts forward an alternative point of view based upon V. Stjopin's analysis of the structure of scientific theory. In his paper A. N. Carpenter is interested in the ancient problem of 'truth and reference', linked with the issues of the structure of language and formalization as scientific idealization and he devotes a particular attention to Hintikka's insights. A wide and historically informative panorama is present in the Heller's paper dealing with the so-called 'anthropic principles'; the very ideology of the Western philosophy and science beginning from the Greek heritage. A sort of complementary nature for Heller's contribution marks the paper by Życiński concerning the 'weak anthropic principle' and its presence within the contemporary debate. The paper by M. A. Finocchiaro is historical in its character: it is intended as an interpretation of Galileo's „Dialogue” from the scientific and methodological point of view, being an illustration of a wider problem of confrontation of various approaches in reading the past of scientific products. It emphasizes the importance of scientifically historical research for the contemporary science.

The third THS volume, already under print, will bring the contributions to the Cracow Symposium '91 devoted to „Theology, Philosophy and Cosmology: on West and East”, with Michał Heller from the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow, as the Guest Editor. We have under preparation the fourth THS volume which is to be devoted to the methodological issues of biological sciences. We still call for papers for this and subsequent issues.

The Editors