

**The Physiology of Sex and its Social Implications.** By KENNETH WALKER, F.R.C.S. Pelican Books: Harmondsworth, Middlesex, England, 1940. Pp. 157. Price 6*d*.

In a characteristic preface the author apologizes for adding to the noisy interlude which has followed the Victorian silence on sexual matters. The book provides a useful introduction to the subject, the author's viewpoint being well balanced and tolerant. The truth, we are reminded, has many facets, and in judging on such vexed social problems as marriage, prostitution, sexual deviation and sex education it is as well to steer a middle course between the extreme reactionary and progressive. By the arrangement of his subject as well as by the many references it is clear that the author is a disciple of Havelock Ellis.

S. M. COLEMAN.

**The Idea of the Soul.** By WILLIAM ELLIS, Ph.D. London: George Allen & Unwin, Ltd., 1940. Pp. 314. Price 12*s*. 6*d*.

This inquiry into the fundamental metaphysical question, the psycho-physical relationship, is written by a biologist. The author's survey starts with the beliefs of primitive man, passes on to the metaphysical speculations of the Greeks, then to Renaissance philosophy and so up to modern philosophical behaviourism and the theories of Bertrand Russell. The author writes with exceptional clearness on a subject unique for its abstruseness. Particularly to be commended is his ability to throw into relief the essential contribution made by each philosophical school. Coming to modern speculation there is an excellent chapter in which he reduces neo-Cartesian dualism and the epi-phenomenalism of philosophical behaviourism to a series of paradoxes.

The author's own contribution is derived from Leibniz's theory of monads. Briefly all Nature is regarded as psychical, there being the following grades in the spiritual hierarchy: animation, life, consciousness, self-consciousness. It is shown that there is no sharp discontinuity between life and the rest of nature, for example between the unconditional reflex of an organism and the sensitivity of wax to fire. The same physico-chemical sensitivity pervades the whole of the material universe.

Psychologists may find in this book a valuable metaphysical foundation, scientists an equally valuable corrective.

S. M. COLEMAN.