

The Reach of Science. Henryk Mehlberg. University of Toronto Press, Toronto, Canada, 1958. ix + 356 pp. \$5.50.

As the title of this book indicates, the author is concerned with the range of applicability of scientific method to the problems of men. His conclusion is that “the universality of scientific method establishes that whatever is knowable is scientifically knowable” (page 343). His analysis leading to this conclusion is divided into three parts, which constitute the main divisions of the book. Part 1 deals with the concept of scientific method; part 2 considers the method of science; part 3 discusses the universality of science.

Throughout his analysis the author gives the principle of verifiability a central role, although, in the light of the recent literature on the difficulties of making this principle a criterion of meaningfulness, he attempts to connect verifiability to the truth rather than the meaning of statements. His discussion in various places of the relation between ostensive terms, conditional definitions, and the verifiable status of quantitative concepts is particularly good.

The author states in the preface that in spite of his concern with a single issue—the scope of science—he has in the course of his analysis dealt with the main problems of scientific methodology. It is in this connection that I have certain reservations about the book. On the one hand, I find myself agreeing with most of what the author has to say. His gen-

eral position seems sound and exceedingly sensible. On the other hand, what he has to say about probability, induction, or the theory of measurement would not give an uninitiated reader any feeling for the fact that these areas of the philosophy of science are full of exact results and specific unsolved problems. There is also, it seems to me, a disproportionately detailed discussion throughout the book of the relevance for scientific method of recent results in mathematical logic in comparison with the discussion of corresponding results in mathematical statistics.

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