

Out of My Later Years. By ALBERT EINSTEIN. (New York: The Philosophical Library. 1950. Pp. viii, 276. \$4.75.)

In this second volume of collected essays and speeches by Albert Einstein covering the period of 1934-1950, interesting glimpses are offered of the reflections of an outstanding scientist on contemporary political, social, religious, and educational problems.

Einstein's philosophical approach is marked, in general, by a notable directness and simplicity of language, revealing a profound humanitarianism. Here is a great thinker who transcends the confined outlook of certain overspecialized scientists, racial and other bigots, and narrow nationalists. His essay on science and religion is particularly stimulating, as are his incisive comments on education, in which he endorses the witticism that "education is that which remains if one has forgotten everything he learned in school," and attacks the tendency to emphasize specialized training at the cost of failing to develop general ability for independent thinking. His brief observations on the Negro question with refreshing novelty relate this racial bias to the powerful limiting effect of tradition upon conduct and compare this bias to that of the ancient Greek philosophers: even they were taken in by the traditional prejudice that the war captives (also white) were necessarily inferior, and therefore to be held in subjugation. Einstein turns to anti-semitism with equally imaginative and penetrating analysis. One wishes that he had developed these and other reflections more fully.

Einstein's thoughts about public affairs turn particularly to the basic problem of the international control of atomic energy, our relations with Russia, and world government. While these perhaps are partially tinged with idealistic naïveté, they are simply and challengingly presented. Of particular interest are an open propagandistic letter from several Russian scientists and his measured (if not entirely complete) reply, which is imbued with tolerance and coupled with intellectual firmness and astuteness.

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Backwoods Utopias; The Sectarian and Owenite Phases of Communitarian Socialism in America: 1663-1829. By ARTHUR EUGENE BESTOR, JR. (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. 1950. Pp. xii, 288. \$3.50.)

As a product of painstaking research and a distillation thereof, Professor Bestor has prepared an admirable evaluation of his subject. Although he does not eschew generalizations revealing basic premises entirely, the most notable quality of the book is the manner in which the