

Preface

THE PRESENT volume contains the proceedings of a most stimulating conference (The Conference on the Philosophy of Mind and Psychology) that was held at the University of Hawaii in March 1968. It provided a splendid opportunity for an exchange and comparison of ideas on one of the central issues of modern and current philosophy: the cluster of problems regarding the relations of mind and body. There is little doubt that this vital issue had been temporarily suppressed (if not repressed!) especially by the philosophical behaviorists, by the positivists—and that it was “solved” in a highly problematic and controversial way by various materialists, physicalists, emergentists, identity theorists, dualistic interactionists, parallelists, or epiphenomenalists.

While the most important contributions toward the dénouement of (what Schopenhauer called) the *Weltknoten* (the world knot) are to be expected, and are indeed most promisingly forthcoming from neuro-psychophysiology, the indispensable task of the philosophers should not be underestimated. Philosophers notoriously disagree even on the formulation of the problem(s), and still more strongly on the proposed solutions. Nevertheless, a large majority of them are convinced that there are *conceptual* questions that need to be answered if an all-around satisfactory resolution of the issues is to be attained.

To this end, it seemed extremely worthwhile for a group of American philosophers to convene with two of Australia's most outstanding philosophers of science, and in several days of intensive discussion to thrash out at least some aspects of the perennially vexing mind-body problems. Hawaii seemed a most desirable and plausible mid-point for such a meeting. Judging by the enthusiasm with which the participants engaged in the search for greater clarity, the present book should prove very interesting, perhaps exciting, to its readers.

It can hardly be expected that a conference of a few days and the subsequent reflections would produce any “final” settlement of the crucial questions. But it

is our hope that we have contributed in a fruitful way toward at least the clarification of the basic ideas in this domain.

The participants wish to express their sincere gratitude to the University of Hawaii, and especially to Professor Winfield E. Nagley, chairman of the University of Hawaii's philosophy department, for making splendid arrangements; to the Minnesota Center for Philosophy of Science (University of Minnesota), and the Carnegie Corporation of New York, as well as the Rand Corporation of Santa Monica, California, for generously supporting our conference.

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