

Commentary

ON HUMAN VALUES AND NATURAL SCIENCE

Considerable reaction has come to the editor in response to the *Zygon* issue of March 1969 (vol. 4, no. 1) in which were presented six papers from the Conference on Human Values and Natural Science held in the spring of 1969 at New York State University College of Arts and Science at Geneseo, plus a seventh paper on "Values via Science" presented by *Zygon's* editor at the December 1968 meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Dallas. Nine of these responses and counterresponses are presented on the following pages of this issue because of the obvious interest in and difference of opinion over those papers on human values and natural science which were challenging a reigning dogma of the philosophical and academic world since the eighteenth century concerning the relation of facts and values.

The challengers have been challenged, and some of them have responded. No doubt further logical argument and factual evidence will be adduced for some time to come. *Zygon's* editor will be interested in further papers that seek to clarify this problem of the relationship between facts and values, whether responding to the March 1969 papers or presenting new materials. The editor, as one of the challengers of the reigning dogma, obviously hopes the challengers will ultimately win the argument. At the same time, as a scholar and scientist, he cannot reject logic or evidence. Every response, thus far, is presented here. This problem is of the essence for *Zygon*, since on it hangs the pursuit of *Zygon's* quest as expressed at the end of its first editorial: "How can man effectively join his understanding of reality from the sciences with his sense of what for him is sacred?"

R. W. B.