

little more religious cogency to it than the Force in Star Wars. There is none of the splendid juxtaposing and contrasting of the courtly world of Arthur with the spiritual world of the Grail, such as we find in the prose Quest.

PERSONS AND LIFE AFTER DEATH by Hywel D. Lewis. *Macmillan*, 1979. pp. ix + 197. £6.95

H. D. Lewis is well known as a vigorous defender of Cartesian mind/body dualism. In the present volume he again takes up a Cartesian position, but he spices it with some discussion of epistemology and method in philosophy (Chapters 1 and 2) and an address on the person of Christ (Chapter 8). He also allows his critics to take the floor against him. The book contains substantial contributions by Anthony Quinton, Bernard Williams, Antony Flew and Sydney Shoemaker (Chapters 4-6).

Lewis's new text reproduces a lot of material available elsewhere, and it is considerably less impressive than its immediate predecessors *The Elusive Mind* (1969) and *The Self and Immortality* (1973). But it is still a welcome addition to the series of which it forms part. Since there is no over-all theme, it amounts to a rather untidy collection; but its main value is clear enough. We have here a sophisticated attempt to state and defend a coherent and credible form of dualism with an eye on wide-ranging and crucial problems in philosophy of religion. Lewis is at his best with philosophy of mind, and anyone who believes that non-dualist theories are inevitable will find in his writing much interesting argument indicating the contrary. This is not to say that dualism is itself in-

There is quite pleasant reading to be had of this novel; but it cannot begin to compete with some other Arthurian novels such as those of Mary Stewart.

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evitable; Williams and the others put up a good fight. But Lewis still maintains a solid counter-attack which is well worth reading and which can reasonably be regarded as something to be reckoned with seriously.

The weakest parts of the book are those not directly concerned with survival and so forth. The first two chapters are interesting but inconclusive. The difficulty here is that Lewis is approaching large and complex issues in a rather general and discursive manner. The address on the person of Christ is also disappointing. "By any computation", Lewis declares, "Jesus was a most remarkable man and it is hard to think that he would not have made his impact on his own times and afterwards in some exceptional way if his life had not taken the course it did take." (p. 164) "It seems to me", he adds later, "that we have in Jesus someone who must have had an exceptional home. We know little about this, barely more than the name of his parents ... It is to me inconceivable that we should have such central reference to 'my heavenly father' if Jesus had not known in the fullest way what it is to have a fine father." (pp. 165-6) Lewis is a good philosopher, but reading this kind of thing makes one feel that writers like Schillebeeckx can sleep easy awhile.

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L'ANTICO TESTAMENTO EBRAICO SECONDO LA TRADIZIONE PALESTINESE by Bruno Chiesa. *Bottega d'Erasmus, Torino* 1978. pp. xii + 424 L.35,000

This volume deals with biblical philology in a highly technical fashion, and yet is of interest and importance to all who care about the text of the Old Testament. Bruno Chiesa is a young Italian scholar who offers us a complete catalogue of the fragments of the Hebrew Old Testament text using the so-called Palestinian system of punctuation (as known up to 1974), together with a collection of all their variant readings. He then studies the material from a textual history point

of view and in its historical context.

Perhaps, it is his method that will most attract the non-specialist believer, Jew or Christian. According to Chiesa no variant reading is to be judged on its own - each has to be placed in its cultural and historical milieu. With this in mind, he tries to retrace the communities that produced these texts, and to identify the conditions, religious and otherwise, that may have led them to write as they did.

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