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to the reviewer that the authors are somewhat too optimistic that sterilization of the insane will shortly prevent insanity in future generations. Heredity unquestionably is more important in some forms of insanity than in others, and it probably acts by making some individuals more susceptible to environmental influences that are the precipitating cause of the mental disorder. The reader of this book unfortunately may draw the false conclusion that the insane are always born to insanity. Sterilization practically is an irreversible operation, but birth control by temporary measures is scarcely mentioned. The laws of many states covering birth control on one hand and sterilization on the other appear inconsistent, and a discussion of them together, at least in their eugenics aspects, would add to the value of the book.

The reviewer does not intend here to take a definite side on this controversial subject. He does plead for an open, fact-finding mind on the whole problem of heredity, birth control, and sterilization as applied to eugenics. One of the dangers and handicaps confronting a movement like this is that it makes an especially strong appeal to those who have a mental bias themselves. Enthusiasts who have a cause to advance may have difficulty in the evaluation of all factors of the problem. Then too often the cause is impeached rather than the evidence. However, the frank propaganda of this book ought not to prevent it from stimulating a great deal of cool, unemotional scientific study of the problems of applied eugenics.

New Haven, Conn.

ARTHUR B. DAYTON.

From the Physical to the Social Sciences: Introduction to a Study of Economic and Ethical Theory. By Jacques Rueff. With an Introduction by Herman Oliphant and Abram Hewitt. Baltimore, The Johns Hopkins Press, 1929. pp. xxxiv, 159. \$2.

This volume will interest students of law for a number of reasons. Not the least of these is the fact that it is the first to bear the imprint of the Johns Hopkins Institute of Law. Those who are curious concerning the objectives and the point of view of the originating faculty of this Institute will find at least a partial answer in the perusal of Rueff. For it may safely be said that the stimulus which called forth this publication was the general correspondence between the conception of the "scientific method" held by this French writer and that held by the founders of the Institute.

It will not be possible to give here an adequate picture of Rueff's fresh and stimulating analysis of scientific method. "Setting out the underlying logical method of the social sciences and showing that it must be the same in kind as that of the natural sciences constitute," say the editors, "the great contribution of Mr. Rueff's book." (p. xxiv).

According to Rueff, the "rational ego" is governed by the Law of Identity, which gives rise to the Law of Causality, "a device which we unconsciously require in order to reconcile our sensations with the Law of Identity." (p. 7). The "reasoning machine" employs the "mechanisms" of formal logic and mathematical analysis to formulate "rational structures in accordance with the Law of Non-contradiction." (p. 8). The so-called physical sciences, by observation and experimentation, build up empirical generalizations about the phenomena experienced. The Laws of Identity and Causality require the "creation of causes" (p. 23) to account for the observed phenomena. But "at the beginning of every science, the em-