

Introduction

As secretary of the steering committee of the Science and Religion Forum, I am pleased that we have been given the opportunity to present the papers of our first forum to the readers of *Zygon*.

For the past three years there have been a number of informal consultations in Britain among scientists who have been concerned to relate their scientific knowledge and modes of study to their religious faith and practice. Those involved decided in 1974 that their deliberations should be more widely known, and during April 10–12, 1975, the Science and Religion Forum was inaugurated at a meeting at van Mildert College, Durham University, devoted to “The Problem of Consciousness.” The Right Reverend Doctor J. B. Habgood, Bishop of Durham, was elected honorary president of the Forum. The 1976 meeting (April 7–9) was held at Cumberland Lodge, Windsor Great Park, on “Man’s Responsibility for Nature (including the Ethics of Research).”

The following papers are all those which were presented, in shortened form, at the Durham meeting, except for a discourse given (at very short notice) by Dr. Habgood on “Religion-and-Science and the Church.” He stressed the need for philosophical sophistication in the science-religion debate, for reconciliation between the idea of continuity assumed by scientists and that of discontinuity implicit in the beliefs of ordinary Christians, and for man’s responsibility for nature (including the ethics of research) to be a principal concern of the Forum.

A. R. PEACOCKE