

# philippine studies

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## **Human Mind: Outlines of Empirical Psychology by Joseph Goertz, S.V.D.**

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*Philippine Studies* vol. 4, no. 1 (1956): 118–119

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solution of the Communist problem has also been found. This, of course, is far from true. In one sense the Communist problem in the Philippines is worse than ever precisely because we are not met with an external threat but have to be on our guard against a very real, albeit hidden, Communist infiltration.

Dr. Scaff conducted more than ninety interviews with ex-Huks who eventually found their way to the army's EDCOR (Economic Development Corps). How these people were brought back to democracy, how they were persuaded to settle in Mindanao, the difficulties of pioneering, how the army helped solve these difficulties, more important, how the ex-Huks helped themselves, what problems EDCOR still faces, all these things make an interesting and inspiring story. Dr. Scaff tells that story well and accurately. An index, a good set of photographic illustrations, some six charts on the national organization of the CPP and twelve pages of carefully edited notes give the scholar's touch.

ARTHUR A. WEISS

## HUMAN MIND

OUTLINES OF EMPIRICAL PSYCHOLOGY. By Joseph Goertz, S.V.D.  
University of San Carlos, Cebu City. Manila: Catholic Trade School, 1955. Pp. 126.

When we speak of "Empirical Psychology" we mean a special scientific methodology applied to psychic events. Empirical Psychology observes all psychic events either spontaneously occurring or purposely provoked under laboratory conditions (experimental psychology) and from the positive data of such observations draws conclusions in the form of theories and eventually of laws.

Since the positive (measurable) data which can be obtained from the observations of psychic events are frequently insufficient to describe the whole process of the event, especially when the higher faculties are involved, empirical psychology remains a limited science which has to be coordinated with other more comprehensive approaches to the problems of human conscious or subconscious behavior.

A course of purely empirical psychology is always a part of a more complete study either philosophical or merely psychological

in nature. The main difficulty of such a course is to remain within the limits of its particular finality and possibilities.

Fr. Goertz in his "Outlines of Empirical Psychology" was able to present a very satisfactory sketch of elementary empirical psychology without letting concepts of metaphysical psychology or of other wider approaches interfere with the objectivity of the purely positive observation. These "outlines" have also the merit of being very clear and brief and, therefore, helpful for class use.

At times, however, definitions seem to remain a little too vague, especially for students who do not have an introduction in rational psychology. Thus, for example, on page 15 under the sub-title "What is Sensation," we find a definition which may leave the student quite puzzled.

Of emotions, Fr. Goertz says that "they are strong feelings connected with a disturbance of the cause of images and accompanied by considerable bodily changes." Due to the importance of the problem of emotions in the normal and abnormal behavior of man, we would have preferred a more exact and detailed description of emotional phenomenology and especially of their normal function.

On page 119, there is a very brief chapter on "Free Will" which, though exact, is still insufficient. Empirical psychology and even laboratory investigations have arrived at wider conclusions than those offered.

The author says in his preface, "This outline I intended as an introductory text for undergraduates but it requires a thorough explanation by the instructor who is advised to consult for himself and lead the students to the study of the references of which selection is given." This quotation points to the use that the teacher should make of the book. We are convinced that a skilled psychologist will find these notes very helpful in his classwork. We are also thankful to Fr. Goertz who, first in the Philippines, has published a work which reflects the scientific personality of his master, the late J. Lindworsky, S.J.

FRANCESCO PARISI