

Philosophy of Science in Japan: 1966-1970

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The following attempt is a general review of the philosophy of science in Japan during the latest five years. Regarding the preceding ten years 1956-1965, one can refer to Professor Seizo Ohe's report published in the other periodical (*Ann. Japan Ass. Phil. Sci.*, Vol. 3, No. 3, 1966). Since then an amount of contribution has been made toward our study of philosophy of science.

In connection with a fascinating book *Philosophy in the Scientific Age* (3 Vols., ed. by Natsuhiko Yoshida et al., Baifukan, Tokyo, 1964), another worthy one, collecting ambitious essays, was issued: *Basis of Science* (ed. by Shozo Ohmori et al., U. of Tokyo P., 1969). In this book mathematicians and natural scientists as well as philosophers act their parts admirably, and they all have precious face-to-face discussions on topics such as exactness in mathematics, physical knowledge, and life and consciousness. Nobushige Sawada urges, in the preface to the book, that the common aim of the collaborators is to set a stage for mutual exchange of their own views.

Sawada is also the author of *The Structure of Knowledge: Conquest of Dogma and Scientific Thought* (NHK Publishing Co., Tokyo, 1969). In spite of its popularity, Sawada's book may be most interesting; he, in fact, severely criticizes the obscurity and sterility of our traditional philosophizing. Shozo Ohmori's article 'Perceptual Scenery and World Picture' in *Basis of Science* is esteemed as most conspicuous among his many phenomenalist essays. From his viewpoint, which he often calls 'the theory of overlapping' of perceptual scenery and scientific world picture, he offers sharp criticism against the arguments brought forward by preoccupied philosophers.

Shigeo Nagai has issued, with his collaborator Hiroshi Kurosaki, a thoroughgoing book *Fundamentals of Philosophy of Science* (Yushodo, Tokyo, 1967), in which are explored many basic problems of the philosophy of science by means of the logical method, and is criticized, at the same time, the standpoint of materialistic philosophy. Nagai is chairman of the committee of *Philosophy of Science Society, Japan*, and has edited its annals *Philosophy of Science* (Vol. 1, 1968; Vol. 2, 1969; Vol. 3, 1970).

Hidekichi Nakamura's ambitious book *Basis of the Philosophy of Science* (Aoki Shoten, Tokyo, 1970) treats about the fundamental issues of analytic philosophy. But Nakamura argues that analytic philosophy has certainly some limits,

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