

Editorial: After Twenty-Two Years

With the last part of Volume 69 of *Philosophy*, in October 1994, Renford Bambrough retired as Editor, a post he had occupied with great distinction since 1972.

During the 22 years since 1972, philosophy in the English-speaking world has seen many changes of fashion and emphasis. Truth-definitions and theories of language have made way for theories of concepts and models of mental activity. Epistemology tracks rather than justifies. Anti-realism is shown to be significant way outside mathematics. Interest in the applications of ethics has burgeoned. French and German influences have spread, and if the names of Heidegger and Derrida still cause a *frisson* in some quarters, almost everywhere is it now respectable to mention Nietzsche.

But while the professional face of philosophy may have changed in these and other ways over the last 22 years, *Philosophy* has remained constant. For this philosophy owes Mr Bambrough much thanks. In his editorship, in what he has published he has shown that philosophy can be rigorous without being needlessly technical, or confined to a trend or fashion. In what he has not published, he has suggested, by default at least, that trends and technicalities can often disguise a lack of rigour, and a lack of care about what is really being said. He has shown that philosophy can treat of topics of general human interest, and still be professional in standard, and, equally, that the apparently abstruse topics philosophers devote much of their time to can still be of general human interest. Above all, at a time when many professional and institutional pressures have pushed in the opposite direction, he has remained faithful to philosophy's ancient and honourable vocation of speaking to an educated public, and, in so doing, of helping to create such a public.

Since news of Mr Bambrough's retirement has spread, the number and variety of plaudits to him have been remarkable, as has the diversity of their sources. Recognition of the quality of his editorship is widespread inside and outside the profession, and is not confined to any coterie. *Philosophy* will do its best to express its gratitude to Renford Bambrough by keeping alive the principles which animated his editorship.