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927. — MADDEN (Edward H. O.), HANDY (Rollo) & FARBER (Marvin), edd. *The Idea of God: Philosophical Perspectives*. Springfield, Ill., Charles C. Thomas, 1968. 24 cm., x + 181 p.

This book consists of the proceedings of the symposium on the title topic held at the State University of New York at Buffalo, October 5 and 6, 1967. The four major addresses were by: W. Norris Clarke, S. J. of Fordham University, Paul Edwards of Brooklyn College (CUNY), John B. Cobb, Jr of the School of Theology at Claremont, and Joseph L. Blau of Columbia University. Commentators were: William T. Parry and Thomas Langan, Donald Evans and Paul Kurtz, Marvin Zimmerman and William H. Baumer, and John T. Kearns and Corliss Lamont. — Father Clarke argued that the way in which one gives meaning to the term « God » is identical to the process whereby the mind ascends to the affirmation of God (or discovers God), and not to any process of meaning analysis. P. Edwards detailed the difficulties in the idea of God which have led contemporary philosophers to reject theism. J. B. Cobb investigated the advantages of Whitehead's form of theistic explanation of the order of nature, the phenomenon of religious experience, man's hunger for personal meaning, and the sense of radical contingency. J. L. Blau argued for a definition of « God » that would circumvent the impasse of traditional conceptions and would allow theists and non-theists the use of the term in reference to whatever ideals and ends their creative imaginations generate. — These papers, and the ensuing discussions of them, thus serve as a survey of the range of contemporary opinions on the subject of God in Western thought.