

THE PHILOSOPHICAL REVIEW

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ONE book of exceptional interest to the general public as well as to specialists, *Les deux sources de la morale et de la religion*; a small number of interesting philosophical works, especially in the fields of ethics and of the philosophy of the sciences; a host of studies in the history of philosophy, some of which are of first-rate importance—such is the somewhat abnormal product of French philosophical endeavor during the year 1932. As in former years, we include in this list certain works written in French, but whose authors are Belgian or Swiss.

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That Bergson was composing a work on moral philosophy has been a matter of common knowledge for several years. What was difficult to foresee, however, was that it should turn out to be the kind of work that we now actually possess in *Les deux sources*.¹ I should scarcely say, as did the very distinguished critic who reviewed this work in the *Revue de Métaphysique*: "It seems to us, *after the event*, that Bergsonianism could not have arrived at other conclusions than it has actually attained."² There is certainly something entirely new for Bergsonian philosophy in the antithesis between the "closed" and the "open"; between the static and the dynamic types of morals and of religion, and the doctrine that the latter, although far from suppressing or rendering useless the former, is yet incomparably superior to it. And the same is true with respect to his conception of the defensive function of hallucination and fabulation, which arrests the individual, and protects the species from the great dangers of the

* Translated from the French by M. V. Wilson and H. R. Smart.

¹ Félix Alcan, Paris.

² V. Jankélévitch, *Revue de Métaphysique*, 1933, 101.