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April Issue

Faith and Philosophy An Editorial	95	How are the Senses True Pierre B. Bouscaren	105
Scholasticism and Common Sense John X. Fyne	97	Romantic Philosophy John G. McQuiston	107
The Platonic Idea Gerald H. FitzGibbon	99	News and Views Hindu Philosophies Michael D. Lyons	109 112
For Value Received	101	New Books	113
"Constitution or Vatican?" John J. O'Brien	103	The Seminars	118

Faith and Philosophy

OUT of the unquestionably exact epithet attributed to St. John of Damascus, "ancilla theologiae", has grown Scholasticism's most wide-spread criticism. The non-scholastic world brings the charge against the system of the Schoolmen that its study is purely professional and valuable only for theologians and controversialists. With a waning conviction it is said to subjugate reason to authority, to be subservient to Ecclesiastical dogma.

"The objection receives various formulations," says Dr. Zybara in his Present Day Thinkers and the New Scholasticism, "but the one idea of dependence on ecclesiastical authority underlies and motivates them all: Scholastic Philosophy is identified with theological dogmas; its outcome is determined in advance by the principle of authority; it is admittedly 'the handmaid of theology'; it is essentially an apologetic system; Scholastics are not free to follow the argument whithersoever it leads, but are guided by theo-