

## The Ether Again

**I**N THE philosophy of Oscar Geiger (outlined in my book *A Seed Was Sown*) the "ether" holds a central place. Not the ether of surgery, but "a universal substance which fills all space," and which is the foundation of all creation.

Speculations about such an ether were in the realm of philosophy until the nineteenth century when scientists took it over, as they probed the nature of the material universe. The hypothesis of an all-pervading ether gained in plausibility as atomic discoveries were made.

But the ether suffered reverses. First, the Michelson-Morley experiments did not reveal any of the assumed physical properties of the ether (such as resistance, etc.); then Albert Einstein came forth with his relativity theories, and there was no place in his equations for the ether.

Except for a few die-hards, like Sir Oliver Lodge, most scientists thenceforth dropped the ether and it became a back number.

Oscar Geiger, who kept abreast of scientific developments, nevertheless held persistently to the ether. He claimed that Einstein's new space was in reality the ether—and that scientists were only discovering new things about it.

Now it seems that the ether is enjoying a strong revival. At Cambridge, in England, P. A. M. Dirac, pursuing the study of matter, is finding that a logical development of Einstein's theories leads right to the ether. Professor Dirac's views have been supported by numerous leading scientists, including Viscount Samuel, Sir Edmund Whittaker, and a new advance-guard group known as the Cavendish School of Cosmologists.

The far-seeing Oscar Geiger has already been vindicated in his insistence on the educational method in order to further the philosophy of Henry George. Will he also be vindicated in his philosophy of the ether?

—ROBERT CLANCY

[Copies of *A Seed Was Sown* may be obtained from the Henry George School, 50 East 69th Street, New York 21, N. Y., at \$1 a copy.]