C. Glymour, *Thinking Things Through: An Introduction to Philosophical Issues and Achievements*, A Bradford Book, The MIT Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts, London, England 1992, XII + 382 pages.

Reviewed by

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This book, conceived as a modern introduction to philosophy, discusses three fundamental questions: (1) what is a demonstration, and why do proofs provide knowledge? (2) how we can use experience to gain knowledge or to alter our beliefs in a rational way? (3) what is the nature of minds and of mental events and mental states? The structure of Glymour's book is closely related to these three issues. Part I concerns the idea of proof. This part is divided into 6 chapters: 1. Proofs; 2. Aristotle's theory of demonstration and proof; 3. Ideas, combinations, and the mathematics of thought; 4. Frege's new logical world; 5. Modern logic. Part II focuses on experience, knowledge and belief. Chapters of the second part are these: 7. Skepticism; 8. Bayesian solutions; 9. Kantian solutions; 10. Knowledge and reliability. The third part (Minds) covers: 11. Mind and meaning; 12. The computable; 13. The computational concept of mind. The book ends with a small (3 pages) part IV (Conclusion) on the enterprise of philosophy.

A general task and spirit of *Thinking Things Through* may be illustrated by a quotation from Glymour's preface: "In our century the tradition of philosophical reflection on these questions [that is (1) - (3) as listed above – J.W.] helped to create the subjects of cognitive psychology, computer science, artificial intelligence, mathematical logic, and the Bayesian branch of statistics. The aim of this book is to make these connections accessible to qualified students and to give enough detail to challenge the very best of them. I have selected the topics because the philosophical issues seem especially central and enduring and because many of the con temporary fields they gave given rise to are open-ended and exciting." (pp. IX–X).

Glymour's book programmatically considers logic as something particularly important for doing philosophy. Logical matters are presented by Glymour historically as well as systematically. He gives a fairly detailed account of Aristotle's, Boole's and Frege's logical theories as well as mentioning several other facts in the history of logic. However, there are