Logic for Living. Lectures of 1921–22 by Henry Horace Williams. Jane Ross Hammer (Ed.)
Philosophical Library, New York. 1951. xix+275 pp. $3.75.

Here is a book written or edited from stenographic reports of the brilliant lectures and
class-room discussions conducted in 1921–22 by Henry Horace Williams, Professor of Philosophy
for fifty years (1891–1941) at the University of North Carolina.

Henry Horace Williams was part of the Hegelian movement which exerted a powerful
influence upon American thought in that era. Hegelianism broke with fundamentalism and
all theological authority. Its method was the interpretation of experience by reason. But
its chief aim was to vindicate religious beliefs closely similar to the traditional ones in God,
free-will, and immortality. It respected science but would not take science as a guide in thinking.
It admitted the truth of Darwinian evolution, but it drew none of the important conclusions,
indicated by that doctrine, about the biological basis of the spiritual life of man, or about his
precarious status in the universe.

Hegelianism was tremendously important in weakening the hold of authoritarian funda-
mentalism upon the universities, and thus in creating a situation where a truly scientific philos-
ophy could develop. This is what Horace Williams did in North Carolina through the teaching
which is reported in the present volume. His influence prevented the passage of an anti-evolution
law in that state, and was a major factor in the cultural and intellectual awakening that has
occurred there since 1900.

The volume before us is a noble tribute to a great teacher and a great man. But its con-
tribution to our knowledge of philosophical or of scientific truth is seriously questioned.

GARDNER WILLIAMS