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Herbert Read, THE FORM OF THINGS UNKNOWN.
Horizon Press, NEW YORK CITY. \$6.00.

The question may well be raised as to why a general book of this type is included in the review section of a magazine devoted to architecture and its allied professions. This reviewer's answer would be that it is becoming increasingly necessary for the serious architect to gain a broad or more objective perspective on his work and the relation of his work to society at large. A book such as this supplies a stimulating and provocative insight into the whole aesthetic process including that of architecture.

Essentially, Sir Herbert Read is interested in re-

NOTES ON READING

lating the arts to our contemporary world at large, to the prevailing scientific philosophy of our age and finally to the daily lives of each individual. For according to the author, "... art became, in every great civilization, the embodiment of its finest feelings and deepest intuitions." Read treats a wide variety of general and very specific problems related to the arts —by which he means architecture, sculpture, painting, music and literature. Chapters range from "The Limitation of a Scientific Philosophy," to "Created Form" and to "Art and the Development of the Personality." Read's own emphasis on the continual need for cross fertilization of the arts well illustrates why anyone of us would benefit by the breadth and the depth of his humanistic approach. —David Gebhard

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