

*Nathan ROTENSTREICH* (on behalf of the guests)

I am expressing the thanks and the good wishes on behalf of the members of the Institut who assemble here and come from abroad to Oxford. We are grateful to the University of Oxford and to New College for opening their gates for us. We thank especially our friend Professor Ayer who serves as the host of hosts or let me say, in the modern idiom, as the meta-host of this *Entretien*. As usually we are thankful to the *Secretariat* who did the excellent work of preparation.

Oxford is in our generation one of the leading centers of constructive philosophical thinking. Those of us who do not know Oxford from their own personal experience and encountering know Oxford from the character of the philosophical analysis as presented in contemporary Oxford philosophy. The distinction and the relation between Oxford Colleges and Oxford University became already a classic philosophical example with all the implications of a philosophical example.

The contemporary Oxford philosophy became for some of us a point of departure and for some of us a challenge for their own views or for the traditional views they adhere to. From both points of view, both in terms of departure and in terms of challenge, Oxford philosophy is a part of the intellectual and philosophical horizon of our time.

I do hope that our discussions in the forthcoming days will be held in the spirit of the problems presented by the philosophical thought of Oxford, both as a critical point of departure and as a challenge.