

From Peru came a melancholy confession : " I am a very poor mathematician." From Poland a word of caution : " As to mathematics, they can only be of value in certain forms of intellectual training." and this sentiment was echoed in several replies, emphasizing that it might be useful only in individual cases, where the student was inclined to studies of this kind, but might otherwise be undesirable.

QUESTION A—11

Would you consider talks or discussions on art from a " philosophical" point of view useful? Or would you regard them as encouraging an over-intellectual attitude?

A question similar to No. 10 and which drew a similar response.

In favour unconditionally 67%. In favour with reserves 16%. Against 17%.

Most of the favourable replies were enthusiastic. The reservations expressed are fairly typified by the following quotations :

From Belgium : " Nothing is useless. However, nothing should be introduced in this field which might encourage the parasites of art."

From Peru : " . . . useful on condition that the philosophical point of view is that of a vital philosophy of creative workers and not of professional philosophers."

In opposition came a flat : "No, all art philosophy is bunk." (United Kingdom.)

In a similar vein, but even more laconic : " A waste of time." (United States of America.)

From Switzerland : " Discussions on art are generally useless. Let us leave learned dissertations to the philosophers."

Others underlined the dangers of excessive intellectualism as likely to be ruinous to creative ability. " Yes, essential from the philosophical point of view, but the artist's creative ability must be preserved." (Czechoslovakia.)

" If they grow from the artistic approach—yes. As pure speculations, decidedly no." (Austria.)

Some of the more positive answers :

" The artist must possess an outstanding intellectual training." (Argentina.)

" . . . hardly likely to lose themselves in intellectualism. This is more a feature of weak or mediocre talents." (Belgium.)

" Confused." (Netherlands.)

" . . . useful under guidance of mentally mature person, who has a critical feeling for art." (Netherlands.)

" We can never study too deeply and why should we not take advantage of whatever philosophy has to offer?" (Peru.)

" . . . very necessary since artists should not be ignorant." (Poland.)

" . . . essential . . . broadening students' point of view and giving meaning to it. To-day there is a lack of the intellectual attitude." (United States of America.)

A novel and interesting variant of this point of view established a rather exacting standard :

" Very important. Nobody is too intellectual, only not sufficiently talented to balance it properly." (U.S.A.)

" The artist always feels this need. It makes his self-analysis more penetrating." (Uruguay.)