

CORRECTION

(*Diálogos*, 32 (1978), pp. 85-86)

The first three paragraphs of my article, "Hugo Dingler's Philosophy of Geometry" contain several factual errors and should be replaced by the following:

Hugo Dingler (1881-1954) studied mathematics in Göttingen at the time when Felix Klein, David Hilbert and Hermann Minkowski taught there. He also studied physics with Wilhelm Röntgen in Munich and, while at Göttingen, he attended Edmund Husserl's courses on philosophy. He obtained a doctor's degree in Munich with a dissertation on differential geometry.¹

From 1920 to 1932 he dealt with physics and its philosophy as Extraordinary Professor at the University of Munich. But he took no part in the extraordinary physical discoveries of the time. His numerous books and articles dealt almost exclusively with what we now call foundational problems. However, he did not discuss the foundations of the new theories of Relativity and Quanta, but sought to consolidate the old physics, based on Euclidian geometry and Newtonian dynamics, into an impregnable and everlasting system.

In 1932, Dingler was appointed to the chair of Philosophy at the Technische Hochschule Darmstadt. Two years later he was forced into early retirement, allegedly on grounds of economy; though some writers suspect that the decision may have had something to do with his authorship of a book on Jewish culture.² He subsequently sought to make amends for his un-German behavior by writing pro-Nazi trash, but—as it generally happens to intellectuals who fawn on party leaders in a one-party state—he labored in vain, for he never quite

managed to ingratiate himself with the new rulers of his country. Dingler's political antics are probably as much to blame as his negative stance towards modern physics for the almost total oblivion into which his work fell outside Germany and Italy after the Second World War.

Footnote 1 remains unchanged, but the following should be substituted for footnote 2:

2. Dingler, *Die Kulter der Juden. Eine Versöhnung zwischen Religion und Wissenschaft*. Leipzig: 1919. I thank Dr. Gereon Wolters for bringing to my attention the exact terms of Dingler's *Zwangspensionierung* and other biographical details I had got wrong in the original version of this paper.

Roberto Torretti