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The ethical library. Lectures on humanism, with special reference to its bearings on sociology by  
J. S. Mackenzie

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**J. S. MACKENZIE**

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LECTURES ON HUMANISM

*THE ETHICAL LIBRARY*

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## PREFATORY NOTE

I N the Lent Term, 1906, the author was called upon to undertake the duties of the Dunkin Lectureship in Sociology at Manchester College, Oxford. The courses of lectures on this foundation are short and open to the public, and hardly provide scope for the discussion of the fundamental principles of Sociology as a science. They are, consequently, concerned in general either with some special social problem or with philosophical considerations bearing, more or less directly, on social life. For the present course the subject of "Humanism" was selected, as having a special interest at that particular time and place. The object of the lectures, however, was not to discuss recent philosophical theories that have been put forward under this name, but rather to bring out the wider bearings of the point of view that seems to be more properly characterized by it.

Courses of lectures of this kind are intended to have a certain general interest; and it is, as a rule, desirable that the substance of them should be published. In the present case, however, the time for previous preparation being very limited, the lectures were delivered from rough notes; and it has not been found possible to reproduce them quite in the form in which they were originally



given. It appeared, moreover, that any value that the lectures might possess would be considerably enhanced by a fuller statement of the philosophical implications of the point of view indicated in them than it had seemed possible to provide in the lectures themselves. An additional lecture has, accordingly, been inserted at the end for this purpose.

A short course such as this must necessarily appear very sketchy and inadequate. One can hardly hope that it will do more than awaken reflection, and suggest directions in which further light may be sought. But even this is probably worth doing, especially at a time when the importance of philosophical principles in the general life of mankind is becoming more and more apparent. The concluding lecture contains hints of ideas which the author hopes shortly to be able to develop more fully.

It should be mentioned that a previous course of lectures on the same foundation, by Professor Henry Jones, which was published in the *Hibbert Journal*, is written from a point of view substantially similar; but the problems with which it deals are, to a considerable extent, different.

I ought to add also that, in preparing these lectures for the press, I have received many useful suggestions from my friend, Professor Muirhead, the Editor of the series in which the book appears.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, CARDIFF

April, 1907

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