SCOTTISH PHILOSOPHY: A COMPARISON OF THE SCOTTISH AND GERMAN ANSWERS TO HUME

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Scottish philosophy: a comparison of the Scottish and German answers to Hume by Andrew Seth

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ANDREW SETH

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Trieste

Balfour Philosophical Lectures University of Edinburgh

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SCOTTISH PHILOSOPHY

A COMPARISON OF THE SCOTTISH AND GERMAN ANSWERS TO HUME

BY

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THIRD EDITION

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TO

A. CAMPBELL FRASER, D.C.L, LL.D.

ENERITV'S PROFESSOR OF LOCIC AND METAPHYSICS IN THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINECTOR

THESE LECTURES ON SCOTTISH PHILOSOPHY

ARE GRATEFULLY AND AFFECTIONATELY

DEDICATED.

PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION.

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In the winter of 1882-83 the question of establishing Lectureships in different departments of study was several times under the consideration of the Senatus of the University of Edinburgh. It appeared, however, that the Senatus had no legal right to use the University funds for such an experiment in intramural extension. In these circumstances, Mr A. J. Balfour, M.P., most generously offered to supply the endowment of the contemplated Lectureship in Philosophy for the first term of three years. The thanks of all friends of the University, and of philosophical students in particular, are due to Mr Balfour for this act of public spirit. My own are not less

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due for the personal kindness implied in the offer.

These Lectures — forming the first course were delivered towards the close of last session, and are now published substantially as they were then spoken. Some explanation of the reasons which dictated the choice of subject will be found in the opening of the first Lecture. The mode of treatment followed must be left to justify itself. It was the desire of the founder of the Lectureship, and it has been mine also, that the Lectures should be a contribution to philosophy, and not merely to the history of systems.

I hope, in a second course, to treat some aspects of the important question suggested at the close of the last Lecture.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, CARDIFF, October 1885.

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

In form and substance these Lectures are reissued with very little alteration from the first edition. But I have availed myself of the opportunity of revision, and have sought throughout to amend expressions which experience has shown to be open to misconstruction. Footnotes have also been occasionally added where it seemed desirable to explain my own position more fully, to modify what was too unequivocally stated in the text, or in general to express my meaning with more exactitude. The only considerable alterations or additions occur in those passages of the third Lecture which deal with the difficult question of the relation of sensation and perception,