

**DOGMATISM AND
EVOLUTION: STUDIES IN
MODERN PHILOSOPHY**

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Dogmatism and Evolution: Studies in Modern Philosophy by Theodore De Laguna & Grace De Laguna

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THEODORE DE LAGUNA & GRACE DE LAGUNA

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MODERN PHILOSOPHY**

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STUDIES IN MODERN PHILOSOPHY

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PREFACE.

The term 'dogmatism' is here used to denote the body of logical assumptions which were generally made by thinkers of all schools, before the rise of theories of social and organic evolution. Its application is therefore wider than common usage would warrant. The empiricism of Berkeley and Hume, as well as the rationalism of Descartes and Leibniz, is included in its scope. The first part of the present work is devoted to the analysis and illustration of the dogmatic principles. In the later parts we have examined some of the philosophies by which dogmatism has, upon one side or another, been assailed: the critical philosophy, absolute idealism, and, at much greater length, pragmatism.

It is to an excursion over well-traveled roads that the reader is invited. A glance over the pages will show them to be fairly sprinkled with the great names—Bacon, Hobbes, Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, Kant, Hegel, Mill, James—while few others are mentioned except in passing. In a history this would be a sore defect. But our object was not history, but the critical analysis of principles; and this required the confinement of the discussion to a comparatively few systems that would be recognized as typical.

While these pages were in press, William James passed away. The debt which we, in common with all of the younger American thinkers, owe to him cannot be measured—unless, perhaps, by the very eagerness with which we have upon many points attacked him. With the other leader of the American pragmatists, Professor John Dewey, we stand in a much closer sympathy. We say this here, because the hostile criticism which we have passed upon his theory of immediate empiricism ought not to disguise our direct indebtedness to him upon other lines. To Mr. Schiller no direct reference has been made, but certain of his characteristic positions are noticed in Appendix I.

These studies make little claim to systematic unity. Unity of a certain sort, indeed, they will be found to possess, namely, unity of purpose and of point of view, but not that of the monograph or treatise. There is one omission, however, which we especially regret. After considerable prominence is given to the theory of relations in the first and second parts, the subject is only incidentally treated in the third. But one of the writers having been forced to withdraw from the work, the attempt to supply this omission would have meant the indefinite postponement of publication.

The book is the product of a genuine collaboration. Some division of labor was necessary at the outset; but almost endless discussion, together with repeated revision by both writers, has made the work in a peculiar sense our common property.

BRYN MAWR COLLEGE,
September 12, 1910.

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PART I
THE OLD DOGMATISM