

ETHICAL ADDRESSES

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Ethical addresses by Various

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VARIOUS

**ETHICAL
ADDRESSES**

ETHICAL ADDRESSES.

SECOND SERIES.

BY THE
LECTURERS OF ETHICAL SOCIETIES.



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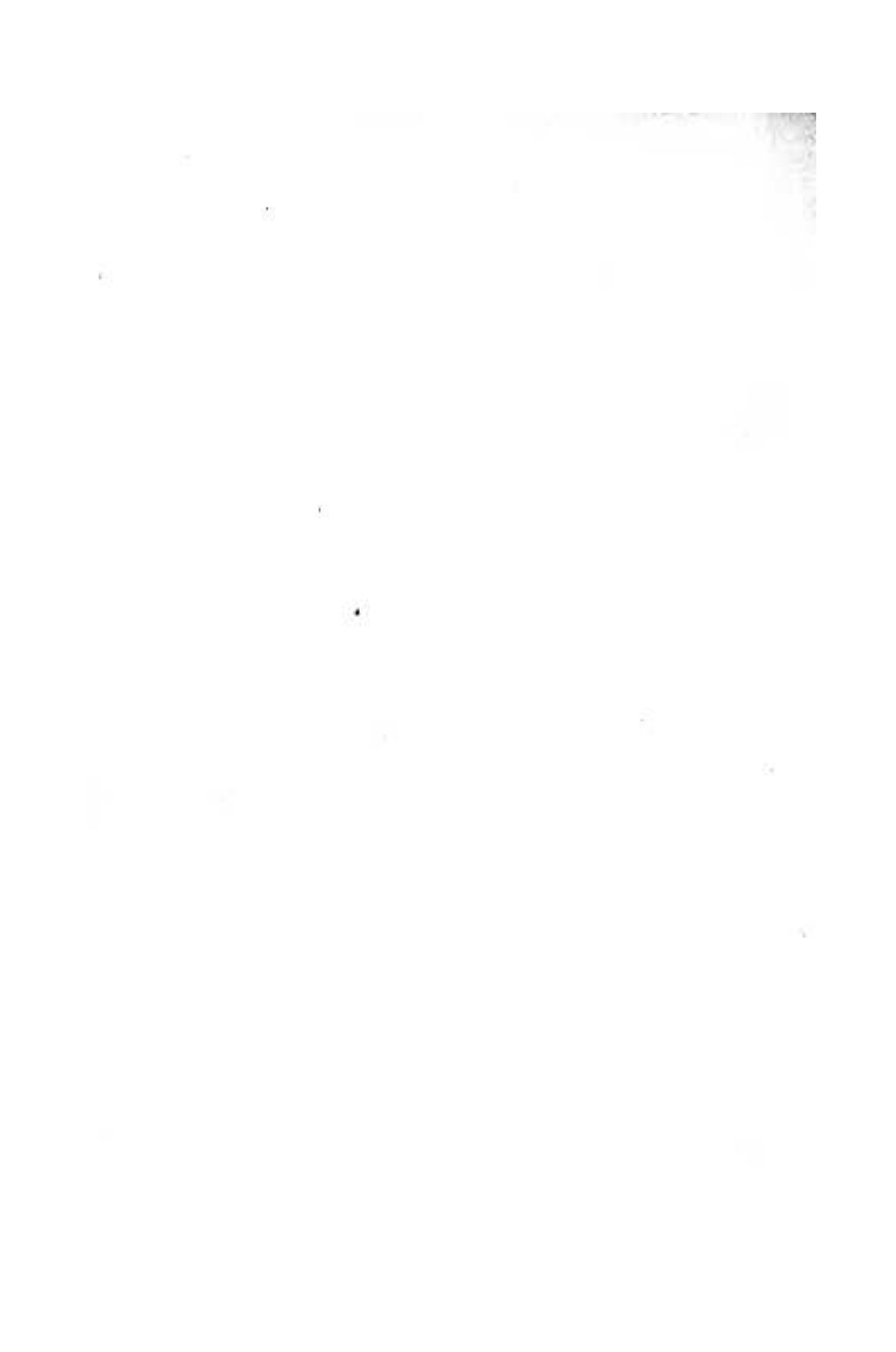
NOTE.

All but three of the lectures appearing in this volume were delivered before the Ethical Societies during the past year (1895). "The Freedom of Ethical Fellowship," by Professor Adler, is reprinted from the first number of the *International Journal of Ethics*, October, 1890; and "The Next Step in Christianity" is reprinted, by permission, from *The New World*, of December, 1892. "The Four Types of Suffering," by Professor Adler, appeared in pamphlet form in 1884, and has long been out of print. The lectures in this volume were published separately in a monthly series issued during 1895.



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WHAT WE MEAN BY DUTY.

BY W. L. SHELDON.

Duty is the basis of my religion and that is why I am so interested in it.

But my interest in the subject will make it all the more difficult for me to express myself clearly. What comes first in a man's life may belong to the sphere where he is least able to explain himself. It is not only a *thought* to him; it is rather his whole being. It is the clue by which he interprets his own life as well as the life of all that is outside of him.

It is to me the most sacred word in human language. It stands for me even before the name of the Supreme Being. When I speak the word "God," it stirs or moves me less than when I speak the word "Duty." It is something so excessively near to us. God, the state, human society and its laws, the Natural World, these seem more or less on the outside. But Duty is on the inside. We cannot get away from it by going somewhere else, for we cannot get away from ourselves.

It is not my intention to enter into the metaphysical aspects of the question; although, as a matter of fact, we are quite aware that in dealing with those issues which pertain to what is ultimate in human life, we are always on the border-land of metaphysics. Neither do we care at this time to enter directly into the analysis of