## THE HUMAN NATURE CLUB: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF MENTAL LIFE

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The Human Nature Club: An Introduction to the Study of Mental Life by Edward Thorndike

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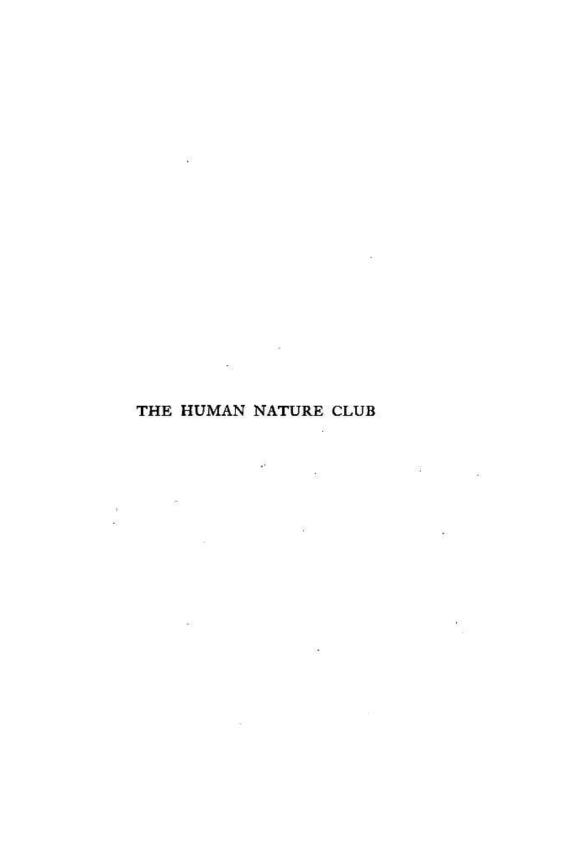
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### **EDWARD THORNDIKE**

## THE HUMAN NATURE CLUB: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF MENTAL LIFE





## The Human Nature Club

An Introduction to the Study of Mental Life

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### PREFACE

This book aims to introduce the reader to the scientific study of human nature and intelligence. It is intended to be useful to intelligent people in general and especially to young students in normal and high schools beginning the study of psychology. The author has tried to write so simply that previous knowledge of science, explanation by a teacher, and even unpleasant effort on the part of the reader, will be unnecessary. At the same time he has tried to be true to fact and sound in method.

One must not expect too much of a book which tries to handle psychological questions without resort to technical words and without presupposing knowledge of elementary science. If the book tells a little truth and does not deceive readers into thinking that it tells more than a little, it may serve a good purpose in waking people up to the possibility of a scientific study of human nature, and introducing them to some of the published results of such study.

For the unconventional form and for the adoption of a thoroughly fictitious dialogue, no excuse is offered. The fiction is frankly announced and should certainly not prevent the reader from realizing that all the pretended discoveries of the members of the Human Nature Club are really the results of long labors by trained thinkers.

It goes without saying that the author is indebted to psychological literature in general so far as he is acquainted with it. In particular he is indebted to the writings and teachings of Professor William James, who is so often paraphrased in this book. The debt to Professor James is so evident that it seems unnecessary to point out the many places where his formulæ have been made to do service.

Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, December, 1900.

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