

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

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649609291

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

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

EDWARD THORNDIKE

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

THE HUMAN NATURE CLUB

The Human Nature Club

An Introduction to the
Study of Mental Life

BY

EDWARD THORNDIKE, Ph. D.

Instructor in Genetic Psychology Teachers College,
Columbia University, New York

LONGMANS, GREEN, AND CO.
91 AND 93 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK
LONDON AND BOMBAY

1901

6

21002 A

COPYRIGHT, 1900

By EDWARD THORNDIKE

COPYRIGHT, 1901

By LONGMANS, GREEN, AND CO.

All rights reserved.

First Edition (published at the Chatsouqua
Press) 1900. Second Edition, revised
and with additions, January, 1901.

LIBRARY OF THE
RELAND STATE UNIVERSITY.

Q 60005

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.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I WHAT THE BRAIN DOES	I
II THINGS WE DO WITHOUT LEARNING	20
III DIFFERENT WAYS OF LEARNING	29
IV OUR SENSES	42
V THE INFLUENCE OF PAST EXPERIENCE	57
VI ATTENTION	65
VII MEMORY	76
VIII TRAINS OF THOUGHT	86
IX MENTAL IMAGERY	100
X OUR EMOTIONS	115
XI PURPOSEIVE ACTION	127
XII HABIT AND CHARACTER	138
XIII SUGGESTION	148
XIV IMITATION	163
XV MENTAL TRAINING	170
XVI HEREDITY AND ENVIRONMENT	181
XVII A REVIEW	197
XVIII SOME DEEPER QUESTIONS ABOUT HUMAN NATURE	200
XIX SOME ADVICE FROM THE EDITOR ABOUT MEANS OF STUDYING HUMAN NATURE	214
INDEX	233

