THE LIMITATIONS OF SCIENCE

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649178360

The limitations of science by Louis Trenchard More

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

LOUIS TRENCHARD MORE

THE LIMITATIONS OF SCIENCE

Trieste

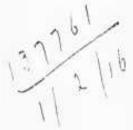
THE LIMITATIONS OF SCIENCE

THE LIMITATIONS OF SCIENCE

BY

LOUIS TRENCHARD MORE, PH.D. Professor in the University of Cincinnati





NEW YORK HENRY HOLT AND COMPANY

1915

COPYRIGHT, 1915, BY LOUIS TRENCHARD MORE

Published April, 2015

THE QUINH & BOSEN CO. PRESS RAMWAY, N. J. Hypotheses non fingo. Quicquid enim ex phænomenis non deducitur, hypothesis vocanda est; et hypotheses seu metaphysicæ, seu physicæ, seu qualitatum occultarum, seu mechanicæ, in philosophia experimentali locum non habent. In hac philosophia propositiones deducuntur ex phænomenis, et redduntur generales per inductionem.—NewTON.

PREFACE

THE separate chapters of this book have already been published as essays in periodicals. The first, second, third, and seventh appeared in *The Hibbert Journal*; the fourth, in *The Philosophical Magazine* and in the University of Cincinnati Studies; the fifth, in *The Monist*; and the sixth, in *The Unpopular Review*. But they have been rewritten and enlarged so as to form chapters for a connected discussion of the Limitations of Science. This was not a difficult task since I have had this purpose in mind from the beginning.

CINCINNATI, December 2, 1914.

CONTENTS

CHAPTE	R								PAGE
I	SCIENCE AS A S	SYMB	OL A	ND .	a L	A₩			I
11	THE METAPHYSICAL TENDENCIES OF MODERN								
	PHYSICS		10.01	•			14	-	32
III	DESCARTES AND HIS INFLUENCE ON RECENT								
	SCIENCE		848	2	19		÷.	22	69
IV	THE SCIENTIFI	с М	ETH	OD		÷	6 4		107
v	THE CLASSICAL	ANI	тн	εN	EW	Med	CHAN	ICS	142
VI	SKEPTICISM AND	о Іро	LATE	Y IN	r Sc	IEN	CE.		187
VII	SCIENCE AS THE	ARB	ITER	of I	Етн	ICS	8	8	212
	INDEX				64				263

THE LIMITATIONS OF SCIENCE

CHAPTER I

SCIENCE AS A SYMBOL AND A LAW

Les théories contemporaines sont sur ce point d'accord avec l'histoire; elles consacrent la prépondérance dans le domaine scientifique, de l'hypothèse atomistique.--HANNEQUIN.

It has grown to be an axiom in modern thought, that the hope of discovering the laws of nature and our relation to them by metaphysical reasoning is impossible. The term metaphysical reasoning will be used consistently to mean the method introduced by the Greek philosophers who, however they might differ in minor matters, were pretty well agreed in looking upon what we call nature as something which could be investigated subjectively; that is, things are as we think them to be. It is thus directly contrary to the physical method, which maintains natural phenomena and laws to be entirely objective and independent of our thought; according to this method no theory or fact can be established unless it is completely verified by experimental tests.

So little in the long years since Plato and Aristotle has been done by the metaphysical philosophers to add