

UNCONSCIOUS MEMORY

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Unconscious memory by Samuel Butler

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SAMUEL BUTLER

**UNCONSCIOUS
MEMORY**

Unconscious Memory

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Author of "Erewhon," "The Way of All Flesh," etc.

MR. FIFIELD has pleasure in announcing he has taken over the publication of the entire works of the late SAMUEL BUTLER, novelist, philosopher, scientist, satirist and classicist; "in his own department," says Mr. Bernard Shaw, "the greatest English writer of the latter half of the 19th century." "The Way of all Flesh," "Erewhon," and "Unconscious Memory," which have been out of print for some time are now reprinted, and all the other works with the exception of "The Fair Haven" (out of print), are now offered at more popular prices.

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London: A. C. Fifield, 13 Clifford's Inn, E.C.

Unconscious Memory

By

Samuel Butler

Author of "Life and Habit," "Erewhon," "The Way of All Flesh," etc.

New Edition, entirely reset, with an Introduction
by Marcus Hartog, M.A., D.Sc., F.L.S., F.R.H.S., Pro-
fessor of Zoology in University College, Cork.

OP. 5

London

A. C. Fifield, 13 Clifford's Inn, E.C.

1910

"As this paper contains nothing which deserves the name either of experiment or discovery, and as it is, in fact, destitute of every species of merit, we should have allowed it to pass among the multitude of those articles which must always find their way into the collections of a society which is pledged to publish two or three volumes every year. . . . We wish to raise our feeble voice against innovations, that can have no other effect than to check the progress of science, and renew all those wild phantoms of the imagination which Bacon and Newton put to flight from her temple."—*Opening Paragraph of a Review of Dr. Young's Bakerian Lecture, Edinburgh Review, January 1803, p. 450.*

"Young's work was laid before the Royal Society, and was made the 1801 Bakerian Lecture. But he was before his time. The second number of the *Edinburgh Review* contained an article levelled against him by Henry (afterwards Lord) Brougham, and this was so severe an attack that Young's ideas were absolutely quenched for fifteen years. Brougham was then only twenty-four years of age. Young's theory was reproduced in France by Fresnel. In our days it is the accepted theory, and is found to explain all the phenomena of light."—*Times Report of a Lecture by Professor Tyndall on Light, April 27, 1880.*



JUN 3 1958

This Book

Is inscribed to

RICHARD GARNETT, ESQ.

(Of the British Museum)

In grateful acknowledgment of the unwearied kindness
with which he has so often placed at my disposal
his varied store of information.

Contents

	PAGE
NOTE. By R. A. Streatfeild	viii
INTRODUCTION. By Professor Marcus Hartog	ix
AUTHOR'S PREFACE	xxxvii
CHAPTER I. Introduction—General ignorance on the subject of evolution at the time the "Origin of Species" was published in 1859	1
CHAPTER II. How I came to write "Life and Habit," and the circumstances of its completion	12
CHAPTER III. How I came to write "Evolution, Old and New"—Mr. Darwin's "brief but imperfect" sketch of the opinions of the writers on evolution who had preceded him—The reception which "Evolution, Old and New," met with	26
CHAPTER IV. The manner in which Mr. Darwin met "Evolution, Old and New"	38
CHAPTER V. Introduction to Professor Hering's Lecture	52
CHAPTER VI. Professor Ewald Hering "On Memory"	63
CHAPTER VII. Introduction to a translation of the chapter upon instinct in Von Hartmann's "Philosophy of the Unconscious"	87
CHAPTER VIII. Translation of the chapter on "The Unconscious in Instinct," from Von Hartmann's "Philosophy of the Unconscious"	92
CHAPTER IX. Remarks upon Von Hartmann's position in regard to instinct	137
CHAPTER X. Recapitulation and statement of an objection	146
CHAPTER XI. On Cycles	156
CHAPTER XII. Refutation—Memory at once a promoter and a disturber of uniformity of action and structure	161
CHAPTER XIII. Conclusion	173

Note

FOR many years a link in the chain of Samuel Butler's biological works has been missing. "Unconscious Memory" was originally published thirty years ago, but for fully half that period it has been out of print, owing to the destruction of a large number of the unbound sheets in a fire at the premises of the printers some years ago. The present reprint comes, I think, at a peculiarly fortunate moment, since the attention of the general public has of late been drawn to Butler's biological theories in a marked manner by several distinguished men of science, notably by Dr. Francis Darwin, who, in his presidential address to the British Association in 1908, quoted from the translation of Hering's address on "Memory as a Universal Function of Original Matter," which Butler incorporated into "Unconscious Memory," and spoke in the highest terms of Butler himself. It is not necessary for me to do more than refer to the changed attitude of scientific authorities with regard to Butler and his theories, since Professor Marcus Hartog has most kindly consented to contribute an introduction to the present edition of "Unconscious Memory," summarising Butler's views upon biology, and defining his position in the world of science. A word must be said as to the controversy between Butler and Darwin, with which Chapter IV is concerned. I have been told that in reissuing the book at all I am committing a grievous error of taste, that the world is no longer interested in these "old, unhappy far-off things and battles long ago," and that Butler himself, by refraining from republishing "Unconscious Memory," tacitly admitted that he wished the controversy to be consigned to oblivion. This last suggestion, at any rate, has no foundation in fact. Butler desired nothing less than that his vindication of himself against what he considered unfair treatment should be forgotten. He would have republished "Unconscious Memory" himself, had not the latter years of his life been devoted to all-engrossing work in other fields. In issuing the present edition I am fulfilling a wish that he expressed to me shortly before his death.

R. A. STREATFIELD.

April, 1910.