

**SCIENCE PRIMERS. HISTORY
OF PHILOSOPHY, FOR
USE IN HIGH SCHOOLS,
ACADEMIES, AND COLLEGES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649494392

Science Primers. History of Philosophy, for Use in High Schools, Academies, and Colleges by
Thomas Hunter

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

THOMAS HUNTER

**SCIENCE PRIMERS. HISTORY
OF PHILOSOPHY, FOR
USE IN HIGH SCHOOLS,
ACADEMIES, AND COLLEGES**

Science Primers

HISTORY
OF
PHILOSOPHY

*FOR USE IN HIGH SCHOOLS, ACADEMIES,
AND COLLEGES*

BY
THOMAS HUNTER, M.A. (GLASG.)



NEW YORK ·· CINCINNATI ·· CHICAGO
AMERICAN BOOK COMPANY

11-10-38

© 11-14-38 J.A.

PREFACE.

This book gives a simple and succinct account of the lives and doctrines of the great systematic philosophers and of those ancient and mediæval philosophers who have proposed some explanation of existence or some theory of conduct. The word "philosophy" in the title of this book, in accord with long-established usage, refers for the most part to metaphysics (or ontology) and in a less degree to ethics. The pupil will therefore find only incidental reference to writers who have earned their distinction by works on logic or on political economy, and to modern writers who have formulated no system in metaphysics such as would entitle them to rank with so-called systematic philosophers.

The questions at the end of the book follow exactly the order of the corresponding statements in the text, and the answers can thus be had at once. The pupil is advised to pursue the following method: Read an article; then turn to the questions on that article and give the answers from memory; and so proceed throughout the book. In this way the invaluable quality of precision will be given to the philosophical information acquired from the study of the text, and

the confusion of ideas that might result from any undirected endeavor to grasp and retain so many different thoughts will be avoided.

The Vocabulary contains explanations of such words as may not be easily understood by the pupil; and in the Index is indicated the pronunciation of proper names.

This primer is designed to supply a want long felt in an important domain of information with which no person, desiring to be really well-informed, can afford to be entirely unacquainted.

THOMAS HUNTER.

Chicago.

CONTENTS.

PART I.

ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY.

	PAGE		PAGE
Thales	7	Anaxagoras	22
Anaximander	8	Socrates	23
Anaximenes	10	The Megarics	27
Later Ionians	11	The Cyrenaics	28
The Pythagoreans.....	12	The Cynics	29
Xenophanes	14	Plato	30
Parmenides	15	The Skeptics	34
Zeno of Elea	16	The Epicureans	34
Empedocles	18	Aristotle	37
Heracitus	19	The Stoics	41
Democritus	20	The Neoplatonists and	
The Sophists	22	the Gnostics	47

PART II.

MEDIÆVAL PHILOSOPHY.

	PAGE		PAGE
The Fathers	49	St. Anselm	56
St. Augustine.....	50	Abelard	56
Arabian Philosophers.	51	Thomas Aquinas.	57
Algazzali	53	Duns Scotus	58
Averroes	53	William of Occam	58
The Schoolmen	54	Roger Bacon	58
Erigena	55	Bruno	60
Roscellinus	55	Campanella	62

PART III.

MODERN PHILOSOPHY.

	PAGE		PAGE
Francis Bacon	63	Stewart	81
Descartes	67	Hamilton	81
Later Cartesians	69	Brown	83
Malebranche	69	Kant	84
Spinoza	70	Fichte	86
Leibnitz	70	Schelling	89
Hobbes	71	Hegel	91
Locke	73	Comte	94
Condillac	76	The Pessimists	98
Berkeley	76	Schopenhauer	99
Hume	77	Von Hartmann	100
The Scottish School	79	Spencer	101
Reid	80		
			PAGE
Questions			109
Vocabulary			122
Index			126

HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY.

PART I.

ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY.

THALES.

Thales (about 640 - 548 B. C.) is generally regarded by both ancient and modern writers as the first philosopher, or the first inquirer to offer an explanation of the world of mind and matter different from the mythological explanation provided by the works of the poets and the legends of the people. The facts of the biography of this earliest of the so-called Ionian or physical philosophers, as well as his teaching, were not committed to writing till long after his own time. To Plato and Aristotle he was known only through tradition, and it is to the latter writer that we owe what we know of his philosophy. A native of Miletus, in Ionia, Asia Minor, in its flourishing days, he appears to have belonged to a distinguished family, probably descended from Phœnician merchants. For his political services he was made chief of the Seven Sages. He was a mathematician and astronomer, and no doubt learned much from the Egyptians, among whom he sojourned for some time.

In philosophy, Thales thought to simplify the universe by referring it to one great principle or beginning, namely water. His reasons for this doctrine are not known, but Aristotle suggests that he was led to it by studying the origin of plants and animals, in the composition and nourishment of which water plays such an important

part. "A seed is naturally moist; but the principle whereby moist is moist, is water." Water, he taught, antedates the world; the world itself floats in water; the sun and stars draw up their substance from the seas; even the gods—for Thales was a believer in an abundance of gods in all things—spring from water. It is said that Thales ascribed to water an animate principle and even regarded the world as a great living organism, a doctrine which took a prominent place later on in the philosophy of Plato.

It will be seen that this early thinker's effort at unifying was very remarkable and thorough. The selection of water as a beginning seems arbitrary, but it was the first great hypothesis of science, the offering of a grand synthetic mind. Thales so deeply impressed his generation with his learning and ability, that the memory of his doings and teachings survived centuries without the aid of the written page. His great generalization will commonly gain greater respect upon greater reflection.

ANAXIMANDER.

Anaximander (611 - about 547 B. C.), the second of the Ionian or physical philosophers, was, like Thales, a resident of Miletus. He was an astronomer and geographer, and wrote a treatise "On Nature." These are the only biographical facts known regarding him. He is said to have been a pupil of Thales, but this has been much doubted. His theories show a very great divergence from those of his reputed master. They have been stated by Aristotle; Diogenes Laërtius, who wrote about the close of the second century A. D.,