

# **ESSENTIALS OF PSYCHOLOGY**

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Essentials of Psychology by Colin S. Buell

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**COLIN S. BUELL**

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PSYCHOLOGY**



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OF  
PSYCHOLOGY

BY  
COLIN S. <sup>W</sup>BUELL, M.A.

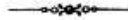
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## PREFACE.



It has long been a favorite theory of the author that even the more profound subjects are capable of comprehension by the average high-school student, if presented in the simplicity of the truth. It is in accordance with this theory that this book has been prepared.

For several years it has been the author's privilege and pleasure to lead a class, varying in numbers from twenty-five to forty, through the delightful paths of psychological science. The main difficulty has been in securing a text-book that would give just what was needed, and allow at the same time that privilege which all intelligent beings should enjoy — a privilege too often lost sight of in the preparation of text-books — the privilege of doing a little independent thinking. The condensed editions of the longer treatises seemed to retain too much of the university flavor, too much of the philosophy of the subject, while for a psychology suited exactly to the needs of the normal and high school there seemed to be a growing demand. With

the intention of gratifying the author's own pupils, and many friends of more advanced age, and with the hope that in so doing he might also reach the wants of others, the preparation of this little book has been undertaken.

The author disclaims any great originality in the subject-matter. Indeed, with such writers in English in the field as James, Sully, Ladd, and many others, to say nothing of numerous German authors, originality would seem to be hardly possible. The method of treatment, the choice of the subjects treated, and the order of treatment are, however, so far as he knows, his own.

It is hoped that the style which has been adopted will meet the wants of students in high and normal schools, and at the same time will not seem too familiar for that large number of people who are anxious to learn something of Psychology in connection with their ordinary reading. The paragraphs have been arranged with special reference to the needs of the student, and the side-heads will suit his convenience in reviews, and also permit the use of the topical method.

The author has found himself constantly tempted to a fuller discussion of many topics, but, having set the limits beforehand, has rigidly held himself within bounds.

The questions and problems, some of which may seem trivial, others too difficult, will be found to render valuable assistance in attaining one of the objects of the book, the development of the psychologic faculties of the student. All these questions and problems, as well as the illustrations and examples, — which are very few in number, — are but suggestive in character, and will, of course, be supplemented by those who may use the book. Doubtless some assistance will be needed occasionally, but it should not be given until the student has failed to answer for himself; for "A man's reach should exceed his grasp."

In order that the results of independent investigations may be rendered permanent, a number of blank pages will be found at the end of the book, following the index, upon which the student may note his conclusions.

The author expresses his thanks to all those who have assisted in the preparation of this book. Especial mention should be made of Prof. William James, of Harvard, who has made several valuable suggestions, and of Dr. A. F. Blaisdell, who has kindly permitted the use of several cuts from his *Practical Physiology*.

COLIN S. BUELL.

NEW LONDON, CONN., July 27, 1898.





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