

**AMERICAN NATURE SERIES, GROUP  
VI. THE PHILOSOPHY OF NATURE:  
THE STABILITY OF TRUTH: A  
DISCUSSION OF REALITY AS  
RELATED TO THOUGHT AND ACTION**

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**DAVID STARR JORDAN & V. L. KELLOGG**

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THE  
**STABILITY OF TRUTH**

A DISCUSSION OF REALITY AS RELATED  
TO THOUGHT AND ACTION

BY

**DAVID STARR JORDAN**

President of Stanford University

"Veritatis laus omnis in actione consistit."—CICERO

"Al frier de los huevos; se verá."—CERVANTES



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## EDITOR'S PREFACE

THE generalizations and principles of science, the significance of scientific facts, the consequences of recognizing and adopting in our daily life the knowledge of science: these are the subjects of this series of books, to be called the Philosophy of Nature Series.

The science which will be most in evidence in these books is the science of living things, biology. And it is the application of the scientific knowledge of living things in general to the conduct of human life in particular which will be the subject most conspicuous in the list of titles of the books of the series.

This first book, then, a robust treatment of science in life, by a robust exponent of the life scientific, should be a most excellent introduction to the Series.

V. L. K.

STANFORD UNIVERSITY  
*April, 1911*





## PREFACE

THIS little book represents the substance of a course of lectures delivered on the John Calvin McNair Foundation, in the University of North Carolina, at Chapel Hill, in January, 1910, at the invitation of President Francis P. Venable. By the provisions of the will of Mr. McNair, fifty years ago, the University authorities were directed, from time to time, to "employ some able scientific gentleman to deliver before the students then in attendance at the University a course of lectures, the object of which lectures shall be to show the mutual bearing of science and theology upon each other, and to prove the existence (so far as may be) of God from Nature." This book treats especially of the relation of realities to human experience and to human conduct.

The writer is under special obligations to his colleague, Professor Henry Waldgrave Stuart, for trenchant criticisms, by which he has tried to profit.

D. S. J.

Stanford University, California,  
November 16, 1910.



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