

**STUDIES IN THE
THOUGHT WORLD; OR,
PRACTICAL MIND ART**

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Studies in the thought world; or, Practical mind art by Henry Wood

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STUDIES IN THE THOUGHT WORLD

C. J. PETERS & SON, TYPEGRAPHERS

PREFACE.

IN response to frequent requests from friendly co-workers and students of truth, these disconnected studies are gathered and presented to the public in book form. A part of the volume consists of lectures and essays which have not before been published, while the others (subjected to some changes) are here reproduced through the courtesy of the publishers of the various magazines in which they originally appeared.¹

While all the papers are metaphysical, psychological, or evolutionary in character, they are, with one or two exceptions, essentially unitary, and therefore the order in which they are placed is not significant. Like "short stories," each is measurably complete in itself.

The power, quality, and exercise of the human thinking-faculty are attracting unwonted attention and interest, and the potency of concentrated ideals

¹ The magazines referred to are *The Metaphysical Magazine*, New York; *The Arena*, Boston; *Universal Truth*, Chicago; *The Christian Metaphysician*, Chicago; *The Journal of Hygiene*, New York; *Health Culture*, New York; and one or two others which have been discontinued.

is increasingly understood and utilized. The priceless value of impersonal truth, and the saving power of optimism, are receiving increased and merited appreciation.

It is not merely a duty, but rather a privilege, for the author of this book to join with many others in urging forward the great cause of the higher life, and of a general human incarnation of the divine quality.

All truth which is above the plane of the intellect should be accepted, not upon external authority, but just in the measure that it receives the full sanction of the inner "Guide," or spiritual intuition of the individual. To aid in and point out the law of the development of this supernal faculty to his readers is the writer's earnest desire and effort.

It may be observed that some basic principles are reiterated in various settings and combinations. This is due to the character of the book, and to the fact that vital truth needs repeated and positive delineation in order that it may become mentally graphic.

Boston, 1896.

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STUDIES IN THE THOUGHT WORLD.

OWNERSHIP THROUGH IDEALISM.

THERE is a universal craving for desirable things; but in many particulars there would be wide variation of opinion as to what is deservedly to be sought. The subjective bias of different individuals is very unlike; and it is this, rather than abstract merit, which determines the quality and intensity of personal demand.

The lack of completeness is a universal feeling; therefore there is a general reaching out for something not yet realized. This longing is vague, and not readily interpreted; consequently its real significance is generally misunderstood. Experience shows that, as one object after another that has been sought is gained, the demand is at once enlarged; so that, contrary to expectation, the feeling of incompleteness, instead of being satisfied, is even more accentuated. Man stretches out his hands, and grasps that which he has craved, but is surprised to find that the hunger within him has moved forward, and far outstripped its former outermost limit. When intelligently comprehended, however, he finds that