

**THE ELEMENTS OF ETHICS;
AN INTRODUCTION TO
MORAL PHILOSOPHY**

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The elements of ethics; an introduction to moral philosophy by J. H. Muirhead

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J. H. MUIRHEAD

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5979

BY

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Τὰ καθήκοντα ὡς ἐπίπαι ταῖς σχέσεσιν παραμετρῆται

EPICETUS

"There is no other genuine enthusiasm for humanity than one which has travelled the common highway of reason—the life of the good neighbour and the honest citizen—and can never forget that it is still only a further stage of the same journey."—T. H. GREEN

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1951
P. 26

TO
MY UNIVERSITY EXTENSION,
AND OTHER STUDENTS,
THIS HANDBOOK IS INSCRIBED

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P R E F A C E

THIS manual has been written with a special view to the wants and difficulties of University Extension students, to whom, in the first instance, the substance of it was given in a course of lectures. Though attempting to deal with the most recent phases of ethical problems, it does not profess to treat them in an original manner, but merely to apply to their solution ideas which, owing to the labours of the best thinkers of our own time and country, are now common property. Those of my readers who are acquainted with the history of thought in the field of Moral Philosophy will readily recognise the debt I owe to the epoch-making writers Plato and Aristotle among the ancients, Kant and Hegel in modern times. Only second to these in importance for the student are their distinguished exponents in Germany and Great Britain, Erdmann, Zeller, T. H. Green, and Professor Edward Caird. For those who are as yet beginners in philosophy, my best hope in

writing this manual will be realised if they are stimulated by it to apply themselves to these and other perennial sources of ethical inspiration.

Students who are familiar with recent continental literature on the subject may be surprised at the absence of all allusion to the ethical writings of Wundt, Steinthal, Paulsen, Höffding, and others. The reason of this omission, as well as of the general character of the references, has been my desire not to burden a book which is meant for a special class of English readers with references to authors to whom they may not have ready access.

In the preparation of these sheets for the press, besides the assistance I have obtained from the Editor of this series, I have to acknowledge my obligations to Mr. J. S. Mackenzie, of Trinity College, Cambridge, whose criticisms upon the proof I found extremely valuable. But my chief thanks are due to Miss M. S. Gilliland, who read the whole of my manuscript and made many helpful suggestions, both as to the matter and the form of treatment.

LONDON, *January*, 1892.

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