# HISTORY OF PSYCHOLOGY; A SKETCH AND AN INTERPRETATION, VOL. I: FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES TO JOHN LOCKE

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History of psychology; a sketch and an interpretation, Vol. I: From the earliest times to John Locke by James Mark Baldwin

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## JAMES MARK BALDWIN

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### HISTORY

OF

# PSYCHOLOGY

#### A SKETCH AND AN INTERPRETATION

BY

### JAMES MARK BALDWIN

PH.D., D.Sc., LL.D.

FORMERLY PROFESSOR IN TORONTO, PRINCETON, AND JOHNS HOPEINS UNIVERSITIES; PROFESSOR IN THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF MEXICO

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT OF THE INSTITUTE OF PRANCE

Volume One

From the Earliest Times to John Locke

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS

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#### To

# EZEQUIEL A. CHÁVEZ

PROFESSOR, DEPUTY, FORMERLY UNDER-SECRETARY

OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION AND FINE ARTS IN

MEXICO; A ZEALOUS PATRIOT, A

PROFOUND SCHOLAR, AND

A LOYAL FRIEND



#### PREFACE

THE proposal to prepare the History of Psychology for this series appealed to me for other than the usual reasons. In the first place, singular as it may seem, there is no history of psychology of any kind in book form in the English language. Some years ago, I projected as Editor a series of historical works to be written by various authorities on central psychological topics, the whole to constitute a "Library of Historical Psychology." These works, some twelve in number, are in course of preparation, and certain of them are soon to appear; but up to now no one of them has seen the light. The present little work of course in no way duplicates any of these.

In French, too, there is no independent history. The German works, of which there are several, had become somewhat old when

<sup>&#</sup>x27;Since this was written the History of Psychology, Ancient and Patristic, by G. E. Brett (1912), has appeared; and Prof. Dessoir's Abriss, mentioned below, has been translated into English.

<sup>\*</sup> The titles are given in the list of "Sources" at the end of Vol. II.

last year two short histories appeared, written by Prof. Dessoir and Dr. Klemm. I refer to these again just below.

Another reason of a personal character for my entering this field is worth mentioning, since it explains the scope and method of the present sketch. I had already prepared much of the same material for a course of sixteen lectures, given in my capacity of Special Professor in the School of Higher Studies of the National University of Mexico (April to June, 1912). These lectures have been entirely made over, in being thrown into book form; but the original purpose appears both in the plan and in the essential idea ruling the historical interpretation itself. The point of view adopted-that of a parallelism between racial reflection and individual thought, which leads to an account of the history of psychology considered as the rise and interpretation of the mind-term: in the dualism of mind and body-this point of view I have been interested in carrying out. The merely narrative sort of history-writing-useful as its results aremakes no appeal to many, among whom I count myself. In a subject like psychology it is peculiarly futile, since the views and theories of men

It leads to the consideration of physical science as the development of the theory of the matter-term of the same dualism, a correlation merely hinted at in certain places in passing.

cannot be ascertained and reported as earthquakes and battles can. They are themselves
matter of interpretation. Had it not been,
therefore, for the larger interest in the principle
of interpretation, I should not have cared to
undertake the task. The point of view itself is
explained in the Introduction; and the results
of its application are gathered up in the last
chapter. It should be added, however, that the
use of this principle of interpretation has in no
way influenced the statement of historical fact
or the exposition of theories. I hope the opinion
of competent critics will confirm this assertion.

The book is to be looked upon as a sketch; no more than this. Two possible ways of treating the subject are well illustrated by the recent

The place of Socrates and Socratic views, to note a case. in point, is a matter of wide divergence of opinion, although we have two able and almost contemporary expounders. From the important place assigned to the "subjectivism" of Socrates in the present volume, opinions vary to the extreme of the omission of Socrates altogether, as by Dessoir. It would seem, however, that any plausible hypothesis as to the course of reflection would restore "Socratism," if not Socrates, to an important place. One may cite the well-known saying as to the authorship of the Iliad: "If it was not written by Homer, then it must have been written by another man of the same name." We may recognise the Socratic contribution to thought leaving aside the question of mere fact as to whether it is essentially due to Socrates himself or to "another of the same name."