

# **ESSAYS IN ETHICS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649576630

Essays in Ethics by John M. Robertson

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**JOHN M. ROBERTSON**

**ESSAYS  
IN ETHICS**



ESSAYS IN ETHICS

*BY THE SAME AUTHOR.*

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BY

JOHN M. ROBERTSON

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LONDON  
A. SOMER, PRINTER,  
1 & 2 TOOK'S COURT, E.C.

NO 1100  
ANNONCE



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## P R E F A C E .

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THE following essays, as the headings tell, were for the most part delivered as lectures. Naturally some, if not all, were denounced by some who heard them as "essayish", and I hereby own the justice of the imputation. It is difficult to make abstract ethics actual, and no less so to keep applied ethics free of priggishness. Something went wrong, perhaps, when the term "ethics" was generally substituted for "morals." Given the drawbacks, however, certain problems have to be discussed; and the ensuing pleas seemed to me to need to be put.

Perhaps the case that now least needs urging is that put in the essay on "The Ethics of Vivisection," in part a criticism of positions which I believe are now abandoned by most, if not all, of the opponents of cruel experiments upon animals. But the analysis there undertaken is in itself, I hope, not useless; and in a Postscript I have sought to indicate what I consider the sound line of resistance.

Just as this preface is going to press, there is published the Rationalist Press Association's wel-