

**SELECTIONS FROM  
THE ORGANON OF  
ARISTOTLE**

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Selections from the Organon of Aristotle by John Richard Magrath

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**JOHN RICHARD MAGRATH**

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**FROM THE**  
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FROM THE  
ORGANON OF ARISTOTLE

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## P R E F A C E.

THIS book has arisen from a need I have felt in lecturing on Logic to candidates for Honours in the Final School. Some acquaintance with Aristotle's Organon appears to be required of them, and it is hopeless, in the press of other subjects, to expect them to read it through. I had marked in a copy of the Organon the passages which I thought deserved especial attention, and had begun the practice of getting students to mark them for lecture and private study. To obviate the waste of time this process, I found, produced, I determined to print these Selections. I trust they may be found useful to tutors like myself and students such as those for whom they were originally intended.

The book with which, in Oxford at least, it is most likely to be brought into comparison is Trendelenburg's 'Elementa Logices Aristoteleae.' After some years' experience I have been induced to consider Trendelenburg's book as unsatisfactory in two ways. (1) From his mode of piecing together sentences or fragments of sentences from different treatises a feeling of uncertainty is pro-

duced, as to whether the effect produced on a reader of his selections is such as would be produced on a reader of the passage in its context. (2) His book covers but a portion of the science whose various parts occupy the treatises which form Aristotle's Organon.

At the same time, the obvious objections to a book of selections perhaps require from any person who produces one some words of explanation. The alternative, in the present condition of logical study in Oxford, seems a historical text-book ; and a book of selections seems to me preferable on several grounds.

Selections stimulate more ; a text-book is bound to be more or less complete. It promises to the man who has mastered it a more or less thorough acquaintance with the science. A book of selections is confessedly a *pis aller*. Its subordinate object must of course be to induce its readers ultimately to go to the original for fuller light. It is with this object that in the selections I have left the connecting particles (*γάρ, τοίνυν, κ. τ. λ.*) which make the passage in question to be not an isolated dogma, but the natural outcome of a connected train of thought.

A book of selections too presents the *ipsissima verba* of the thinker. A historian, however conscientious and critical, must communicate something of his own mind to the transcription. And one of the great uses of this study is to bring us face to face with the great thinkers of other ages.

Looking also, as we are here unfortunately bound to do, at Logic as a subject not only for study but for exam-

ination, it seems to me that a logical text-book, especially if authorized, would be more likely to lend itself to all the contemptible artifices whereby the 'Sophists' of the present day corrupt the youth they profess to educate. No one, I suppose, at all familiar with the working of education in Oxford would wish to substitute a modern text-book for the *Ethics* and *Republic* as the basis of instruction in Moral Philosophy. The present unsatisfactory state of logical study<sup>1</sup> is, I think, partly due to the absence of anything to take the same place.

The idea of the book was in my head before I saw it suggested by Mr. Fowler in the Preface to his '*Deductive Logic*.' I fear the value of the book to individual students will be impaired by its appearing without notes. But I needed the Selections at once for my own lectures, and hoped it might be useful to other lecturers.

If time and opportunity serve, I hope to illustrate it at a future period with notes and essays on subjects connected with the Aristotelian Logic. Should I be able to produce them, I can promise that they shall be made available to purchasers of this edition. It seems necessary clearly to make this promise, as the implication of it in the publication of an imperfect book has not always in Oxford been held binding.

The text followed is that of the Oxford reprint of Bekker. The numbers on the right-hand side of each page refer to his chapters and sections. Where no sectional

<sup>1</sup> See a Letter of T. D. Acland, Esq. to the Vice-Chancellor.