

PAIN AND PLEASURE

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Pain and pleasure by Henry Thomas Moore

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HENRY THOMAS MOORE

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PLEASURE**

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Our Senses Series—George Van N. Dearborn, Editor

PAIN AND PLEASURE

BY

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TO
M. B. M.



PREFACE

In presenting to the public a volume on pain and pleasure as part of a series on the senses, a word of explanation is perhaps necessary as to the precise meaning attached to these terms. It may quite properly be asked how far I mean to identify these terms with sensation, and how far with feeling. Indeed, my whole position in regard to the relation of sensation and feeling naturally comes in question when unpleasantness is included as a variety of pain, and the sensation of tickling is put in the same general class with pleasantness. There is probably no more disputed ground in psychology than that which relates to the above point, and none in which more different shades of opinion have authoritative support. Speaking personally, I find it impossible to dispute the fact of a distinct difference between the sensation of pain and the feeling of unpleasantness, but the points of similarity seem far more significant than the points of difference. We may therefore without hesitation class them under a single general

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heading even though recognizing them as subclasses of a primitive type of consciousness. The right understanding of this relation will, I believe, come as the result of a genetic study rather than of cross-section analysis. [The effort has been in the third chapter to suggest a probable line of genetic continuity from primitive pleasantness and unpleasantness to full-fledged sensory pleasure and pain.

Especial emphasis has been laid throughout on the broad, vital significance which all pain and pleasure experiences have in common. It is believed that a satisfactory philosophy of the problem of evil can proceed only from a psychology of pain and pleasure that lends itself to broad interpretation.

I wish here to acknowledge my especial indebtedness to Professor G. V. N. Dearborn for his kind loan of two hitherto unpublished hemobarograms showing the relation of pleasantness and unpleasantness to blood-pressure. These graphs appear in Chapter V.

Hanover, New Hampshire,

March 16, 1917.

EDITORIAL INTRODUCTION

Few people, comparatively, however intelligent and generally thoughtful, have as yet stopped to consider the surpassing interest and the unique importance of Our Senses. Living gateways as the sense organs are between ourselves and our ever-changing surroundings, both spiritual and material, they constitute the channels not only of our *life-satisfaction*, but of all our immediate *knowledge* as well. If, then, in discussing them, biological imagination and breadth and depth go hand in hand with technical knowledge of the highest grade, the volumes comprised should be both human and scientific. And these volumes are so, and will be. It is because of such possibilities that a series like the present, authentic yet interesting and inexpensive, must appeal to the intelligent man or woman of to-day. As contributions to psychology and to education their value is certain to be great, as indeed is indicated by the