

**RELIGION AND
PHILOSOPHY.
[1916]**

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RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY

BY

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PREFACE

It was my intention to write this book as an essay in philosophy, addressed in the first instance to philosophers. But the force of circumstances has to some extent modified that plan. To make of it an academic treatise, armed at all points against the criticism of the professed specialist, would require time far beyond the few years I have spent upon it. The claims of a "temporary" occupation, very different from that in which I began to write, leave no opportunity for the rewriting and careful revision which such a work demands, and I had set it aside to await a period of greater leisure. But the last year has seen a considerable output of books treating of religion from a philosophic or intellectual rather than either a dogmatic or a devotional point of view; and I believe that this activity corresponds to a widespread reawakening of interest in that aspect of religion among persons not specially trained in technical philosophy or theology. In the hope of making some small contribution to this movement, I venture to publish this book as it stands.

No one can be more conscious than myself of its shortcomings; that they are not far greater is largely

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due to the patience with which certain friends, especially E. F. Carritt, F. A. Cockin, and S. G. Scott have read and criticised in detail successive versions of the manuscript. It must not be supposed, however, that they are in agreement with all my views.

69 CHURCH STREET, KENSINGTON, W.,

July 30, 1916.

PART I
THE GENERAL NATURE OF RELIGION