

**THROUGH
SCIENCE TO FAITH**

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Through Science to Faith by Newman Smyth

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NEWMAN SMYTH

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THROUGH SCIENCE TO FAITH

BY

NEWMAN SMYTH

Knowing that Nature never did betray
The heart that loved her

WORDSWORTH

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PREFACE

THIS volume contains a course of lectures which were given before the Lowell Institute in Boston during the winter months of 1900-1901. It was their object to answer the inquiry whether, through the science of the century which was then passing away, the coming age might enter into richer possession of the spiritual faiths which have been man's heritage through all the centuries.

Modern science is a new appeal to nature. Our inherited religious faiths cannot maintain their power, and they ought not to survive, if they fail to accept fully nature's answer to the latest appeal of our science, and if they do not search diligently for the true interpretation of new disclosures of life. The teachers of divinity to the coming age will need, as an essential element of the instruction in schools of theology, a working knowledge of modern methods of scientific inquiry. For the assurance of faith cannot be maintained from a fortified critical position outside the province of the evolutionary science; it may be won by positive participation in the work of the scientific world. Some acquaintance especially with biological studies and results should be made a required part of any thorough education for the modern ministry of the

word of life. In this promising direction of inquiry the younger ministry may find from the following chapters some suggestive aid for their further studies.

This book is not intended for teachers only, but more generally for readers who would inform themselves concerning the scope and tendencies of the evolutionary science since Darwin's time, especially in its relation to our most cherished human faiths and hopes. We have had enough, indeed, of too hastily conclusive and often unverified popular articles concerning the religious teachings of modern science; there is need of painstaking and appreciative sifting of the results of modern investigations of nature in order that we may understand their real bearing upon the highest problems of human concern. To many persons who are too busy to search for themselves among the strictly scientific sources of knowledge, but who also are too thoughtful not to be interested in such inquiries, this volume may come as an endeavor to meet this need.

As the lectures, which are here revised for publication, were originally prepared for a general audience, technical expressions and too detailed scientific discussions have been avoided; but for the aid of students who may wish to pursue these inquiries further, and with critical minuteness at various points, numerous references to scientific authorities and contributions have been added in the foot-notes. Many of the articles cited contain full summaries of the literature of the subjects to which they refer.

To scientific investigators, likewise,—the author ventures to hope—it may not seem a useless or un-

welcome endeavor, if a guest in their laboratories and an admirer of their patient and ingenious researches, would take the accepted results of their inquiries, and seek to understand and interpret them in their larger relations to the outlying realm of human thought and life. He trusts that this book—the fruitage in his religious thinking of seeds gathered from their fields—may be received in scientific circles as a grateful recognition, from the theological side, of the value of faithful scientific work not only to the material welfare of the world, but also for the higher moral and spiritual life of men.

I would mention my personal indebtedness for aid in the laboratory, and for valuable suggestions, to Professor S. I. Smith, and to Dr. W. R. Coe of the Sheffield Scientific School of Yale University; and readers of this volume will be indebted also with me to Dr. Coe for his very excellent drawings of the diagrams which illustrate the contents of that most wonderful thing in the world, the living cell, and the fascinating mystery of its process of self-division and multiplication.

NEWMAN SMYTH.

NEW HAVEN, CONN., JAN. 1, 1902.

