

MODERN SCIENCE AND MATERIALISM

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649141777

Modern science and materialism by Hugh Elliot

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

HUGH ELLIOT

**MODERN SCIENCE
AND MATERIALISM**

BY THE SAME AUTHOR

**Modern Science and the Illusions of
Professor Bergson**

With Preface by SIR RAY LANKESTER, K.C.B.,
F.R.S., etc. Crown 8vo. 6s. net.

Letters of John Stuart Mill

Edited, with an Introduction, by HUGH S. R.
ELLIOT. With a Note on Mill's Private Life
by MARY TAYLOR. With 6 Portraits. 2 vols.
8vo. 21s. net.

LONGMANS, GREEN AND CO.

London, New York, Bombay, Calcutta, and Madras.

Lamarck's Zoological Philosophy

Translated, with an Introduction, by HUGH
ELLIOT.

MACMILLAN AND CO., LTD.

MAKERS OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

Herbert Spencer

By HUGH ELLIOT.

CONSTABLE AND CO., LTD.

MODERN SCIENCE AND MATERIALISM

BY
HUGH ELLIOT

156236
4.10.20.

LONGMANS, GREEN AND CO.
39 PATERNOSTER ROW, LONDON
FOURTH AVENUE & 30TH STREET, NEW YORK
BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, AND MADRAS

1919

PREFACE

THE preparation of this book has involved a study of many different branches of Science and Philosophy. As I completed my survey of these various branches in turn, I usually summed up the conclusions which I had gathered and published them as articles in the reviews, with the object partly of giving precision to the ideas, partly of gaining the advantage of criticism. It thus comes about that I have to make a number of acknowledgments for permission accorded me to republish parts of these articles in the present work. The greater part of Chapter I was published in the *Candid Quarterly Review* for November 1916. Certain portions of Chapter III appeared in the *Edinburgh Review* for January 1909, January 1911, and April 1912. Part of Chapter IV was published in *Science Progress* for January 1915. The theory of Chapter V was sketched in two articles in the *Hibbert Journal* in April and July 1916. Finally, a small part of Chapter VI, and many of the ideas of Chapter IV, were developed in articles in *Bedrock* in October 1912, July 1913, and January 1914. To the proprietors of these Reviews I tender my cordial thanks for their courtesy in allowing me to make use of these articles for the present work.

I have also to thank Mr. Mark Barr for many valuable observations and criticisms on Chapter II.

H. E.

CONTENTS

CHAP.		PAGE
	INTRODUCTION	1
I.	THE UNIVERSE AS A WHOLE	18
II.	MATTER AND ENERGY	40
III.	LIFE AND CONSCIOUSNESS	71
IV.	THE FALLACY OF VITALISM	104
V.	MATERIALISM	132
VI.	IDEALISM	174

MODERN SCIENCE AND MATERIALISM

INTRODUCTION

IN all ages since the dawn of civilization, inquiring minds have been enthralled by certain fundamental questions, which are felt to be of greater magnitude and importance than any of those matters of detail which confront us in the ordinary course of our daily lives. What are we? whence have we come? whither are we going? what was the object of the Universe? and what will be its end, if it ever have an end?—questions such as these have oppressed all the greatest thinkers of history; they have perplexed to some extent nearly all men, save those whose mental horizon is limited to the immediate satisfaction of their material wants.

Yet, after more than two thousand years of civilization, not one of these questions has advanced in the smallest degree towards a solution. There has, indeed, been no lack of speculation or of theories which for a time were believed to be solutions. Innumerable systems of mythology, systems of religion, systems of philosophy, innumerable superstitions, too crude and incomplete to be called systems, have risen at different times and places, have secured the allegiance of tribes, nations, and races, have risen and flourished for a time, then crumbled away and lost all interest except to the archæologist and historian. The greatest and most learned minds in the annals of mankind