

**THE SOUL; A
STUDY AND
AN ARGUMENT**

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The soul; a study and an argument by David Syme

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DAVID SYME

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BY

DAVID SYME

AUTHOR OF

"OUTLINES OF AN INDUSTRIAL SCIENCE," "REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT
IN ENGLAND," AND "THE MODIFICATION OF ORGANISMS"



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PREFACE

IN publishing this book I have no expectation that it will prove much of an attraction to the general reader. The utmost that I look for is that it will provoke further inquiry amongst those who, like myself, are profoundly dissatisfied with current opinion on the subjects herein discussed. I do not profess to have done more than give an outline of my views, and that in the briefest manner possible, for to treat these thoroughly would have taken a much larger volume. The fact that these views differ widely from those generally entertained by my contemporaries may be a sin past praying for in

the opinion of the many, but a saving grace in the estimation of the few. I shall be more than content if they meet with the approval of the latter.

THE AUTHOR.

MELBOURNE,
Nov. 30th, 1902.

INTRODUCTION

The term Soul—What the soul really is—Method of investigation—The brain not the sole seat of sensation—Nerves, nerve cells and their functions—A theory of reflex action—On organic modifications—The phenomena of unconscious mental action.

Is there a soul? Is there any purpose or design in nature? Is there any after life? These questions are simple in statement but not in solution; they must occur to all who care to consider, even in an incidental way, their own existence or the system of things of which they form a part. Most of us at times feel an interest as to the warrant we have for believing as we are taught, or as to the reasons that others have for their opinions on these subjects. We speak lightly of Life and Mind, Matter and Spirit, Sensation and Consciousness, and of many other entities or attributes of which knowledge is assumed. As a matter of fact,