

THE MORAL SELF: ITS NATURE AND DEVELOPMENT

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The moral self: its nature and development by A. K. White & A. Macbeath

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A. K. WHITE & A. MACBEATH

**THE MORAL SELF:
ITS NATURE AND
DEVELOPMENT**

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The Moral Self: Its Nature and Development.

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EDITOR'S PREFACE

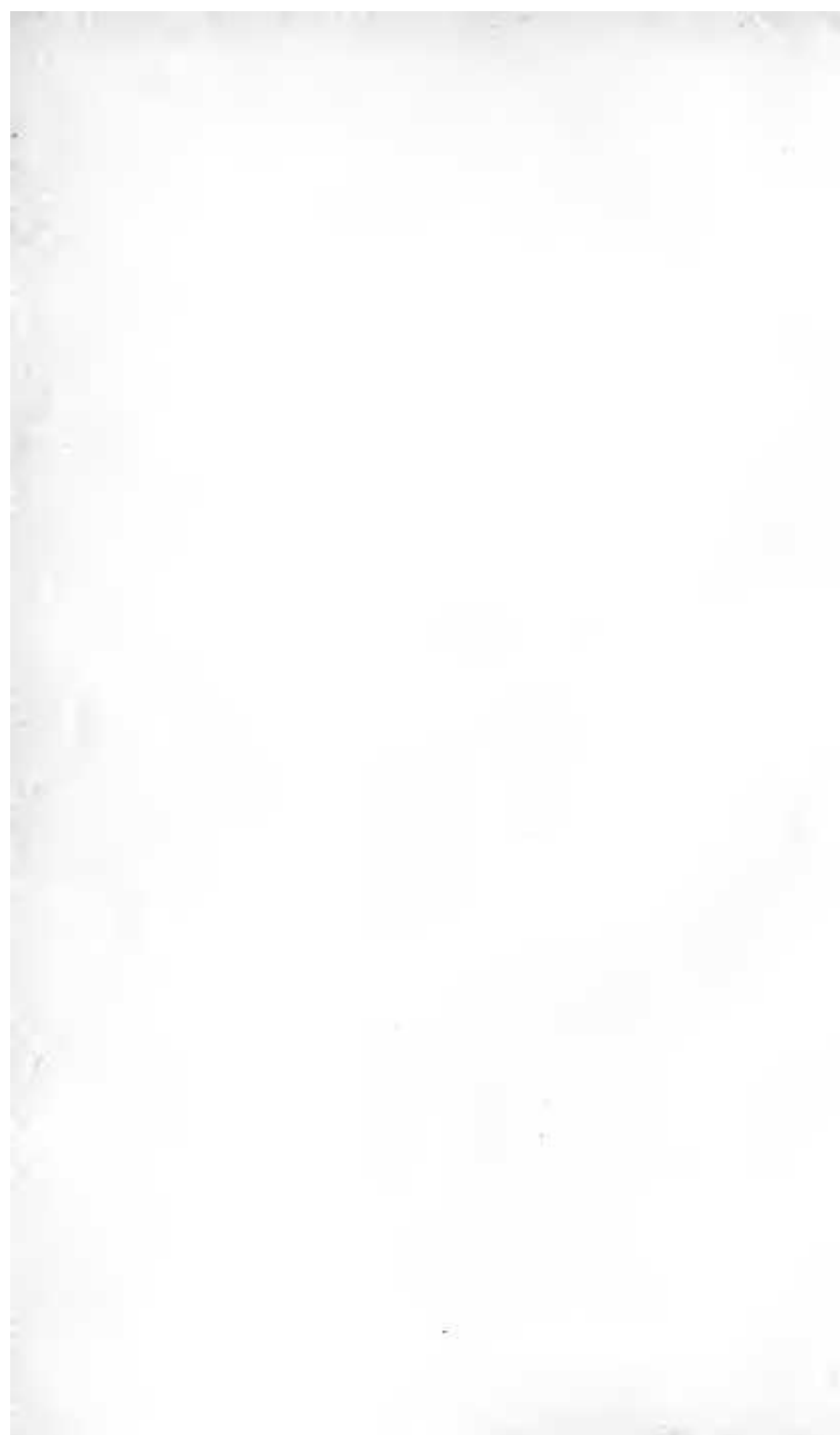
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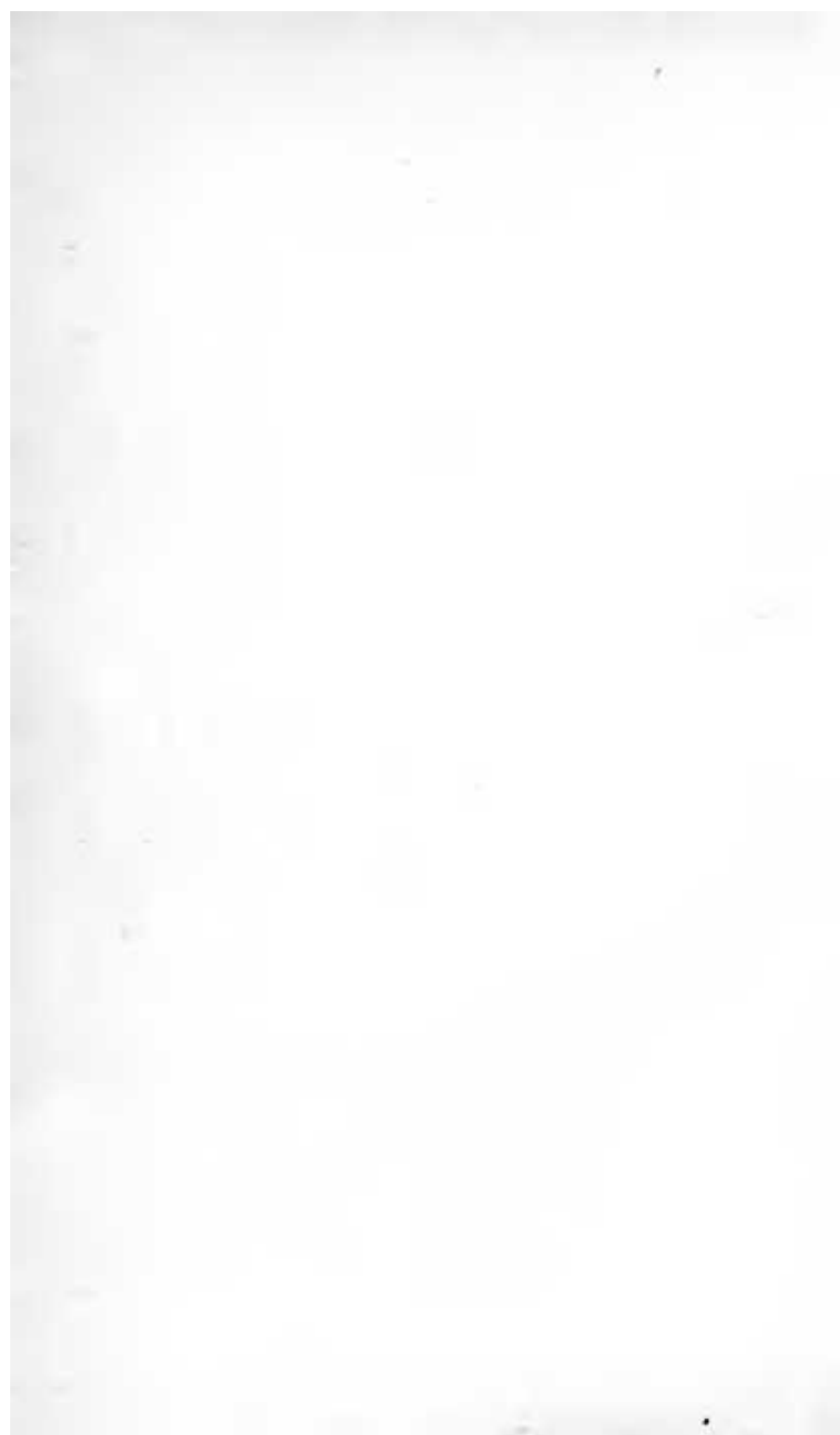
FOREWORD

BY PROFESSOR A. D. LINDSAY.

THE editor of this series has done well in including in the *Modern Educator's Library* a book on Moral Philosophy. My colleagues, Mr. White and Mr. Macbeath, have written this book in the light of their experience in lecturing on Moral Philosophy to students in training as teachers, and that experience has made them select for their central subject the moral self. In this they are following a very old tradition in educational theory. For Plato follows up his scheme of education in the *Republic* with a psychology of the moral self. Such a psychology is as much wanted for the educationalist now as it was then. Modern educational psychology, though it repudiates faculties and talks of "integration" and "the whole man," is apt to fall back into the errors it condemns and split up the self under new names. Unless it concerns itself with the psychology of the moral self, this is bound to happen. Such at least is the implication of the doctrine set forth in this book. For its authors' fundamental position is that if you begin to consider human nature as a system or as a whole, or as integrated, you are considering moral questions, and, conversely, that you cannot throw any light on what we mean by right or wrong, good or bad, or by moral ideals, except by seeing how our various instincts, our imperfectly systematized and harmonized interests and impulses, come to form more and more a harmonious system. That is an old doctrine, but it is also a true one. There can be no sound theory of education or of morality unless this is clearly apprehended, and it is a great thing to have it as ably and thoroughly expounded as it is in this book.

A. D. LINDSAY.

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW.



AUTHORS' PREFACE

As a result of several years' experience of lecturing on Ethics to teachers in training, we have felt the need for a text-book which would meet the special requirements of such students. In a course which rarely extends over thirty hours it is impossible to deal comprehensively with the subject. Our experience has been that it is better to emphasize the main principles than to obscure the operation of these by too much attention to detail. For this reason we have attempted to lay down what we consider to be the essentials of moral education—the nature and development of moral character.

As the book is primarily intended to be read by students in Training Colleges as a background for the lectures and as a basis for discussion in tutorials, we have considered it advisable to treat many aspects of the subject more briefly and dogmatically than we would otherwise have wished. We hope, however, that, as a general introduction, the book will be found useful, not only by teachers in training, but by other students of Ethics.

We wish to express our indebtedness to Professor Lindsay for writing the Foreword, and to our colleague, Mr. Idris W. Phillips, who read the whole of the book in manuscript and made many valuable suggestions.

While the general scheme of the book was framed in such a way as to ensure continuity of treatment, Chaps. V–XI and Chaps. I–IV are the work of the Authors in the order in which their names are given below.

A. K. WHITE.
A. MACBEATH.

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW.

May, 1923.

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