

ESSENTIALS OF SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

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Essentials of Social Psychology by Emory S. Bogardus

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BY

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PREFACE

This book is written specifically for the purpose of developing the "problem-getting" method of education. To this end, the main attention has been given to the formulation of the "problems" which appear in connection with the theme or themes of the chapters. Each of the "problems" has been tried out in the classroom and found productive of constructive thought on the part of students. These exercises are intended to set the student at work, and to stimulate him to do his own thinking.

The student who has an introductory acquaintance with social psychology should begin the study of each chapter with the problems. To these problems, he should first seek answers in his own experiences and observations; then he may inquire of others; he may look for further hints in the context of each chapter, and search through the findings of the specialists whose related works are cited in the lists of selected references at the close of the chapters. If the student has an inadequate background for giving his attention first to the exercises, he may read the context, not as an end in

itself, but as a method of preparation for attacking the problems. The context of each chapter should not be "remembered," but utilized as a means of finding answers, seeing new relationships, and making new discoveries. If the student comes into the class-room *remembering*, this book is intended to send him out *thinking*.

The second aim of the author has been to write a treatise which would meet the needs of the undergraduate student in colleges, junior colleges, and normal schools. The subject of social psychology is of such vital, far-reaching, and practical importance that every college student should be introduced to a scientific consideration of the field. Every such student is compelled to study the psychology of the individual; but few are required or even encouraged to study the psychology of the interactions of individuals in their multifarious group relationships. Surely the latter phenomena are of as vital importance as the former.

A third need which this book aims to meet arises in connection with the method of organizing the subject-matter of social psychology. To some writers, social psychology consists chiefly of a study of the social nature and the social activities of the individual; to other authors, the subject consists largely of an analysis of the psychic interactions of the members of groups.

- 1- The first emphasis is essentially subjective, genetic, psychological; the second is chiefly objective and sociological.
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