

HUMAN AFFAIRS

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PREFACE

ALTHOUGH the approach to social and political problems to which this book gives expression is, so to speak, in the air and formulating itself in many minds simultaneously, a note on the origin of this particular work may be of interest to the reader.

Rather more than two years ago, two of the three editors who planned and consummated this project, working as research students in the Psychological Laboratory at University College, London, planned a departmental journal with the object of making immediately available the results of scientific work of topical social interest. Dr. Cattell had independently been planning a journal to form a body of opinion among the general public in favour of referring political, social, and cultural problems to the sciences which deal with humanity. At the British Association in Norwich in 1935 the three future collaborators discovered their common interest. An editorial board of leading authorities in the various sciences was formed, and a periodical, *Human Affairs*, was projected to bring topical problems into fruitful contact with recent advances in the social and biological sciences. It is as an attempt to pave the way for this periodical and to measure the extent of public support awaiting it

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that the present volume has been launched. If the response is adequate the monthly journal *Human Affairs*, managed by the same editorial board, will appear in due course.

Among the many people whom we have to thank for various suggestions are : Professor Cyril Burt in particular for his initial encouragement, Professor Julian Huxley, Mr. H. G. Wells, Mr. Gerald Heard, Professor Charles Spearman, Lord Snell, Professor F. C. Bartlett, Mr. Eric Farmer, Dr. Angus Macrae, Sir John Orr, Dr. Havelock Ellis, and Professor J. C. Flugel. We are also indebted to Mr. H. Lewis for his very able English rendering of Professor Mannheim's chapter ; and Mr. W. Tidman for compiling the index.

THE EDITORS

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