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A CASE FOR LAISSEZ-FAIRE.

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A CASE FOR LAISSEZ-FAIRE

BY

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PREFACE

AN authoritative body of current opinion rejects the maxim of *laissez-faire* and welcomes the widening radius of governmental interference. But in the following pages the teaching of philosophy and psychology is utilised to reinforce the economic importance of an individuality which has transcended the stage of leading strings.

Granted that some of man's impulses are anti-social expressions of what has been called the 'pleasure principle,' the remedy lies not in repression but in sublimation. The unruly instincts, when their natural ends have been subserved, may be diverted into fresh channels, conformable to the exigencies of external reality. This transformation is the port after heavy storms, the solvent of mental conflict and neurosis. It signifies a concrete gain to society, as when an inventor, formerly absorbed in mere technical perfection, reduces his contrivances to commercial propositions, or when a self-assertive spinster gives over the search for a husband and manages a school instead.

Of course this process of displacement is difficult. Certainly it implies efforts and sacrifices. But it is demanded of every individual who desires to resolve the contradictory tendencies in his finite life.

The existence of this little volume is largely due to the sympathetic encouragement of Professor W. R. Scott. To him and to Mr. A. L. Macfie, who brightened the drudgery of proof correction with some able suggestions, the author is very much indebted.

GLASGOW,

J. W. N.

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