

# Essentials of Scientific Method

**A. WOLF**

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SCIENTIFIC METHOD



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ESSENTIALS  
OF  
SCIENTIFIC METHOD

BY

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## PREFACE

THIS little book is intended to give an up-to-date, concise account of the aim and methods of science. It may claim to describe and illustrate more scientific methods than are dealt with in any other book; and to present them without those unnecessary encumbrances which so frequently prevent the student from seeing the wood for the trees. Some psychological and philosophical considerations are inevitable in a book of this kind; but I have deliberately resisted the temptation of letting the main theme lose itself in a mass of discussions which, though interesting and important, may well be deferred for separate, subsequent consideration. It is my intention to publish, in the near future, two companion volumes dealing respectively with (1) the essentials of deductive reasoning, and (2) the essentials of the philosophy of science. The student of scientific method is strongly advised to supplement his general study of the subject by ample practice in the analysis of the methods employed in actual scientific investigations. He might begin with the analysis of such summaries of scientific researches as are contained in my *Exercises* (pp. 38 ff.), and go on to scientific journals, monographs, etc.

My old friend, Dr. A. T. Shearman, has read the typescript of this book, and I wish to thank him warmly for his friendly help.

A. WOLF.

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