

RELIGION AND NATURAL SCIENCE

By E. HAIGH, M.A., B.Sc.



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Student Christian Movement

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“My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither
are your ways my ways, saith the Lord.

“For as the heavens are higher than the
earth, so are my ways higher than your ways,
and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

ISA. lv. 8, 9.

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TO
MY PUPILS,
WHO ALSO HAVE BEEN MY TEACHERS

PREFACE

THIS book is intended as an introduction—nothing more—to a very wide field of thought and literature. It is primarily addressed to students of Natural Science by one who has been engaged in the work of secondary education for more than forty years, and principally, during that period, as a teacher of physical science.

At the present time the earnest-minded student who wishes to know something of the relations of modern science to “questions of the day,” and more especially to religious and philosophic thought, is likely to be bewildered by the number and variety of excellent works in which such subjects are discussed with fullness and ability by writers of eminence. But, from his point of view, such works demand for their perusal an amount of time and severe mental effort which he can ill afford to give at a time when he is preparing for difficult professional examinations. Consequently such study is likely to be postponed indefinitely, if undertaken at all.

It is for this class of readers that the author has ventured to write this book. Within so small a compass, quite apart from the limitations of

the writer, it is manifestly impossible to deal adequately with any of the great topics touched upon in these pages. Nevertheless, an endeavour has been made to indicate clearly the nature of some of the principal problems which arise in the course of such investigations, and of the present trend of thought in relation to them. To marshal the evidence in such a form that the reader may see how the land lies in reference to these matters, and thus more easily pursue any further investigation for himself, has been the objective steadily kept in view. In pursuance of this aim, frequent reference has been made to works of the higher class above mentioned, to the later study of which this outline sketch may serve as a guide. At least, it is hoped that the reader will acquire a sense of location which will enable him to recognize more clearly what part of the field he is exploring when he undertakes a detailed study of any of the subjects here so briefly reviewed.

Originally intended only for private circulation, the publication of these notes in book form is mainly due to the encouragement given to me by two official members of the Student Christian Movement—the Rev. Hugh Martin, M.A., and the Rev. F. A. Cockin, M.A., to both of whom I am indebted for helpful suggestions and useful criticism of the typescript copy. My best thanks are due to a former colleague, the Rev. E. Arblaster, M.A., for valued assistance in a final revision of the text, and also to the Rev. L. W. Grensted, B.D., for kindly reading through

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the chapter dealing with the New Psychology (Chapter VI.). It is scarcely necessary to add that responsibility for any personal opinions expressed in these pages rests solely with the writer.

E. H.

194 DIVINITY ROAD,
OXFORD.

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