Lectures on the experimental psychology of the thought-processes

Titchener Edward Bradford
Title: Lectures on the experimental psychology of the thought-processes

Author: Titchener Edward Bradford

This is an exact replica of a book. The book reprint was manually improved by a team of professionals, as opposed to automatic/OCR processes used by some companies. However, the book may still have imperfections such as missing pages, poor pictures, errant marks, etc. that were a part of the original text. We appreciate your understanding of the imperfections which can not be improved, and hope you will enjoy reading this book.
EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY OF THE THOUGHT-PROCESSES
LECTURES
ON THE
Experimental Psychology
of the Thought-Processes

BY
EDWARD BRADFORD TITCHENER

New York
THE MACMILLAN COMPANY
1909
All rights reserved
PREFACE

IN a course of lectures on the elementary psychology of Feeling and Attention, published last year, I remarked that "the system of psychology rests upon a threefold foundation: the doctrine of sensation and image, the elementary doctrine of feeling, and the doctrine of attention." This statement, which formed the basis of my whole discussion, was promptly challenged by reviewers. I was misled, they affirmed, by a sensationalistic bias; I should have taken account of current experimental work upon the thought-processes; I had no right to assume that all intellection is imaginal in character.

I could not but acknowledge the essential justice of this criticism, although I could not either accept my critics' point of view. I was, indeed, engaged in writing a brief defence of psychological sensationalism, when I received an invitation to deliver a series of lectures at the University of Illinois. Here was an opportunity, of which I gladly availed myself, to treat in some little detail of the recent experimental contributions to the psychology of thought. The present volume is the result.
I have printed the lectures as they were written for delivery at the University of Illinois, in March, 1909. In the appended notes, I have allowed myself a freedom of reference and comment somewhat wider than before. The presence of the notes at the end of the book need not disturb the general reader, while their fulness may prevent certain minor misunderstandings to which the *Feeling and Attention* has been exposed. I have, however, made it a rule to leave out of consideration all experimental work that is concerned simply with association and reproduction, and all purely theoretical studies of the thought-consciousness. Where the dividing line is at all obscure, I have, it is true, not hesitated to transgress. Still, the psychological reader will miss much that, without this limitation of purpose, he might reasonably expect to find.

My thanks are due to my wife; to Professor S. S. Colvin, of the University of Illinois, whose invitation gave occasion for the writing of the lectures; to many friends, at Urbana and at Ithaca, among whom I may name Professor J. W. Baird, Dr. L. R. Geissler, and Dr. W. H. Pyle; and especially to my colleague, Professor I. M. Bentley, who has read the manuscript of the book, has constantly assisted me during its
preparation with criticism and positive suggestion, and by his sacrifice of time and energy has made it possible for me to bring my task to early completion. In dedicating the volume to Professor Bentley, I wish to express my gratitude for the help that he has generously rendered, not only in this particular case, but in all my literary undertakings of the past dozen years.

Cornell Heights, Ithaca, N. Y.
July 15, 1909.