

✓ $\frac{21}{981}$

Ä

THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC SERIES.

VOL. XXXIV.

Ä

V $\frac{27}{981}$

9 $\frac{148}{12224}$

ILLUSIONS

A PSYCHOLOGICAL STUDY

BY

JAMES SULLY

AUTHOR OF "SENSATION AND INTUITION," "PESSIMISM," ETC.

LXXXIV

FOURTH EDITION

SECOND IMPRESSION

LONDON

KEGAN PAUL, TRENCH, TRÜBNER & CO., LTD.
DRYDEN HOUSE, GERRARD STREET, W.

1905

A

PREFACE.



THE present volume takes a wide survey of the field of error, embracing in its view not only the illusions of sense dealt with in treatises on physiological optics, etc., but also other errors familiarly known as illusions, and resembling the former in their structure and mode of origin. I have throughout endeavoured to keep to a strictly scientific treatment, that is to say, the description and classification of acknowledged errors, and the explanation of these by a reference to their psychical and physical conditions. At the same time, I was not able, at the close of my exposition, to avoid pointing out how the psychology leads on to the philosophy of the subject. Some of the chapters were first roughly sketched out in articles published in magazines and reviews; but these have been not only greatly enlarged, but, to a considerable extent, rewritten.

J. S.

Hampstead, April, 1881.

PREFACE TO FOURTH EDITION.



IN the present edition an attempt has been made to bring the book up to date by means of an Appendix. This supplement, which has been prepared by Miss F. A. Welby, gives references to the more important recent literature of the subject, dealing with some departments, *e.g.* Optical Illusions, which my volume did not find space to treat fully. It is hoped that these additions will greatly enhance the value of the book as a guide to students.

The references in the footnotes are to the first editions of Wundt's *Grundzüge der physiol. Psychologie* and Helmholtz's *Physiol. Optik*.

Hampstead, December, 1894.

CONTENTS.



CHAPTER I.

THE STUDY OF ILLUSION.

Vulgar idea of Illusion, 1, 2; Psychological treatment of subject, 3, 4; definition of Illusion, 4-7; Philosophic extension of idea, 7, 8.

CHAPTER II.

THE CLASSIFICATION OF ILLUSIONS.

Popular and Scientific conceptions of Mind, 9, 10; Illusion and Hallucination, 11-13; varieties of Immediate Knowledge, 13-16; fourfold division of Illusions, 16-18.

CHAPTER III.

ILLUSIONS OF PERCEPTION : GENERAL.

Psychology of Perception :—The Psychological analysis of Perception, 19, 20; Sensation and its discrimination, etc., 20, 21; interpretation of Sensation, 22, 23; construction of material object, 23, 24; recognition of object, specific and individual, 24-27; Preperception and Perception, 27-31; Physiological conditions of Perception, 31-33; Visual and other Sense-perception, 33, 34.

Illusions of Perception :—Illusion of Perception defined, 35-38; sources of Sense-illusion, 38-40: (a) confusion of Sense-impression, 40-44; (b) misinterpretation of Sense-impression, 44; Passive and Active misinterpretation, 44-46; Passive Illusions as organically and extra-organically conditioned, 46-49.