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ILLUSIONS

A PSYCHOLOGICAL STUDY

BY

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

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P R E F A C E.



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.

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