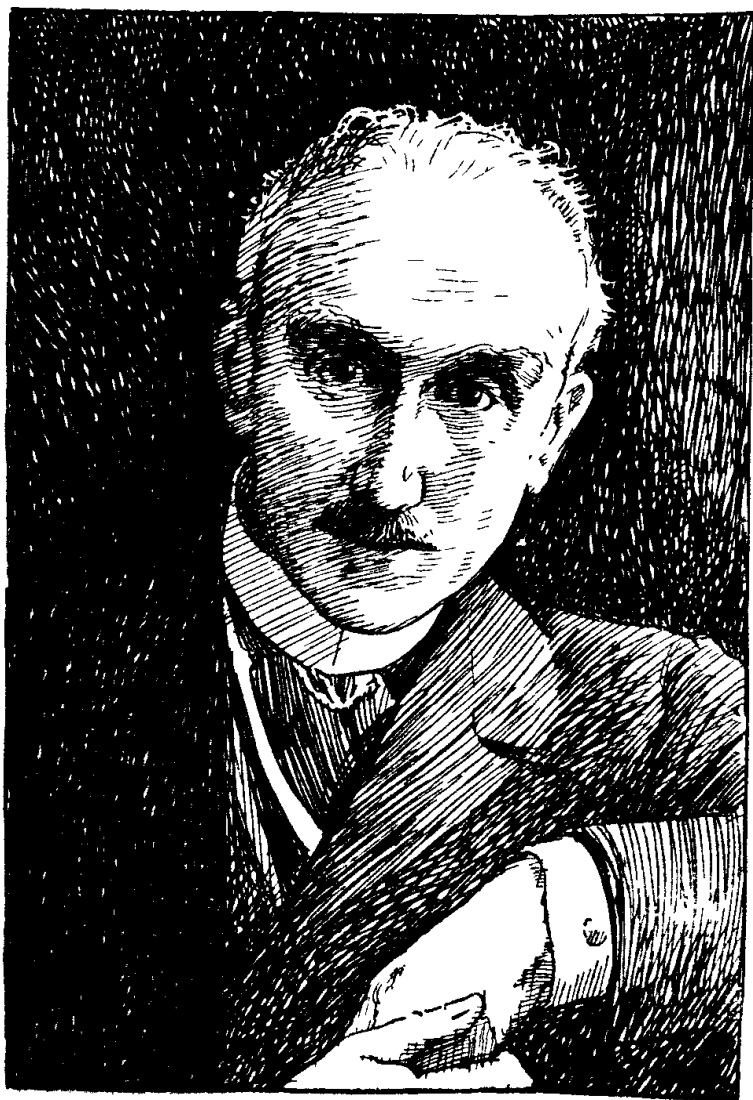


WILDON CARR

**HENRY BERGSON**  
**PHILOSOPHY OF CHANGE**



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## **THE PHILOSOPHY OF CHANGE**

**By H. WILDON CARR**



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## PREFACE

Monsieur Henri Bergson, the philosopher whose teaching I have tried to present in brief in this little manual, is still in the full vigour of his life and thought. He is a philosopher who combines profound and original thinking with a wonderful talent for clear exposition. He is a Professor at the College of France, and a Member of the Institute. Although his writing and teaching is in the language of his country, we English may claim a special share in him so far as there is any nationality in philosophy. It is very largely by the direct study of the classical English philosophers that the particular direction of his thought has been determined. The influence of Herbert Spencer and of John Stuart Mill, and also of the older English philosophers, Locke, Berkeley, and Hume, is clearly manifest in his writings. It is particularly shown in his attitude toward physical science. His philosophy is not an attempt to depreciate science or to throw doubt on scientific method, but, on the contrary, its whole aim is to enhance the value of science by showing its true place and function in the greater reality of life.

The purpose that I have kept in view in the following pages is to give the reader not a complete epitome of the philosophy so much as a general survey of its vitscope and method. If the reader is interested and desires to become a student there is only one advice that I can give him, and that is to read Monsieur Bergson's books. If the problems they deal with interest him, he will find no difficulty in understanding them, for the author's style is a model of lucidity.

During this present year (1911) Monsieur Bergson has become personally known to large circles of philosophical students in England. In May he delivered two lectures before the University of Oxford on "The Perception of Change." (*La Perception du Changement*. Oxford, The Clarendon Press.) He delivered the Huxley Lecture at the University of Birmingham on "Life and Consciousness," published in the *Hibbert Journal*, October 1911. He also delivered four lectures before the University of London on "The Nature of the Soul." These have not

yet been published. Quite recently also his Essay *Le Rire*, written in 1901, has been translated into English. (*Laughter, an Essay on the Meaning of the Comic*. Macmillan & Co.)

I am alone responsible for the plan and method that I have chosen in presenting this philosophy, but Monsieur Bergson has very kindly read the proofs, and the title I have given to it, *The Philosophy of Change*, was suggested by him.

H. WILDON CARR.

BURY, SUSSEX,

*December 1911.*