New Studies in Ethics

Edited by W D Hudson

What is involved in judging a person to be moral or immoral, or in calling an action right or wrong? What makes a man good or an action our duty? Such questions as these, which concern the nature and content of morality, have been discussed by philosophers from earliest times and are still live issues today.

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A distinguished team of philosophers, drawn from universities in Great Britain, the U.S.A. and Australia, was invited to prepare these Studies. They have provided a series of monographs which will prove indispensable to university students of Moral Philosophy, and will interest any intelligent reader.

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NEW STUDIES IN ETHICS
GREEK ETHICS

Greek Ethics

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CONTENTS

<i>Editor's Preface</i>	<i>page</i> vi
I. INTRODUCTION	i
II. THE BEGINNINGS	3
(i) Background	3
(ii) The Sophists	7
(iii) Democritus	13
III. SOCRATES	15
IV. PLATO	26
Note on Plato's treatment of Love and Friendship	39
V. ARISTOTLE	41
Note on Aristotle's treatment of Friendship	62
VI. AFTER ARISTOTLE	64
(i) Background	64
(ii) Epicureanism	65
(iii) Stoicism	67
<i>Notes</i>	70
<i>Bibliography</i>	74

EDITOR'S PREFACE

New Studies in Ethics is a series of monographs by modern philosophers, drawn from universities in Great Britain, the United States and Australia. Each author has been asked to expound and critically examine the thought of a philosopher, or school of philosophers, representative of one type of ethical theory. The series as a whole covers the main types of theory from Greek antiquity to the present day and meets the need for a comprehensive survey of ethics from the point of view of contemporary analytical philosophy.

The Greeks were the first to conduct what is recognizable today as a systematic philosophical discussion of the nature of morality. Mrs Huby has produced a comprehensive account of the meanings which they gave to such expressions as 'good', 'virtue', 'voluntary action', 'justice', etc.; and where there were differences among them concerning the correct definition of these terms, she has brought these to light. Greek thinkers sometimes gave the same answers as our contemporaries, sometimes different ones, both to the practical question: how are men to attain the good life? and to the philosophical question: what is the best method of arriving at an understanding of morality? This study illuminates the differences and similarities on both counts in a discussion which is at once scholarly and readable.

W. D. HUDSON