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THE CONCEPT OF A PERSON

and Other Essays

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TO DEE AYER

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PREFACE

FOUR of the nine essays which make up this book have not been previously published. They are the essay on 'The Concept of a Person', which gives the book its title, and those on 'Names and Descriptions', 'Truth', and 'Fatalism'. An earlier, but in many ways very different, version of 'Names and Descriptions' appeared in a Polish translation in *Studia Filozoficzne*, 5.20, in 1960, and some parts of the essay on 'Truth' are based on an essay with the same title which was published in 1953 in No. 25, Fasc. 3, of the *Revue Internationale de Philosophie*.

Of the other essays 'Philosophy and Language' was delivered as an inaugural lecture at Oxford in November 1960 and subsequently published by the Oxford University Press: 'Can There Be A Private Language?' appeared in the *Supplementary Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society for 1954*, as the first paper in a symposium in which the other participant was Mr. R. Rhees: 'Privacy' was delivered to the British Academy in 1959 as one of the annual philosophical lectures provided for by the Henriette Hertz Trust; it appeared in the *Proceedings of the British Academy* for that year and was separately published by the Oxford University Press: 'What is a Law of Nature?' appeared in 1956 in No. 36, Fasc. 2, of the *Revue Internationale de Philosophie*. Of the two notes on Probability, 'The Conception of Probability as a Logical Relation' appeared in a volume entitled *Observation and Interpretation*, which records the proceedings of the Ninth Symposium of the Colston Research Society held in the University of

Bristol in April 1957, and 'On the Probability of Particular Events' was published in No. 58, Fasc. 4, of the *Revue Internationale de Philosophie* in 1961.

My thanks are due to the editors, institutions, and publishers concerned for permission to reprint this set of articles, and also to my secretary, Mrs. Rosanne Richardson, for her help in preparing this volume for the press.

A. J. AYER

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