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SCIENTIFIC THEORY AND RELIGION

*The World described by Science and
its Spiritual interpretation*

by

ERNEST WILLIAM BARNES

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 978-0-521-73022-8 - Scientific Theory and Religion: The World Described by Science
 and its Spiritual Interpretation
 Ernest William Barnes
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CONTENTS

FOREWORD	<i>page xxiii</i>
LECTURE I. INTRODUCTION	
§ 1. Jewish cosmology	1
2. The different picture created by modern science	2
3. Repercussions of scientific progress: free-will: invariable sequence	2
4. The constant progress of science constitutes a series of ever closer approximations to the truth	4
5. Theology cannot be based solely on human spiritual experience: it must take account of the God of Nature revealed by science	5
6. The philosophical assumption of these lectures is a moderate realism: the physical world exists independently of any human mind	6
7. The external world a somewhat unexpected synthesis gradually being constructed by the observation and thought of humanity	7
8. Rational and irrational faith	9
9. The limitations of scientific knowledge	10
10. The opportunity of superstition	11
11. The laws of Nature	12
12. The range of the lectures	13
LECTURE II. MATTER	
13. The physicist's definition of matter: inertia	14
14. The Galilean principle of inertia an experimental fact	14
15. Matter in ancient speculation	15
16. The nature of combustion	16
17. The law of 'conservation of matter'	16
18. Force	17
19. The implications of Newton's second and third laws of motion	17
20. The law of conservation of energy	18
21. Mass and weight: inertia and gravity	18

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-73022-8 - Scientific Theory and Religion: The World Described by Science
and its Spiritual Interpretation

Ernest William Barnes

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

vi

CONTENTS

§ 22. Einstein's revolution: energy has inertia	<i>page</i> 20
23. Dalton's atomic law	21
24. Atoms: their existence and size	22
25. Mendeléev's Periodic Table	25
26. Atomic number and the true order of the elements	26

LECTURE III. SPACE

27. Our intuitions of space and time	28
28. Measurements of time and of space	28
29. The arbitrary separation of space from time	30
30. The straight line and ideal measuring rod	30
31. Coordinates: three-dimensional space and its numerical representation	30
32. The fundamental assumptions of our geometries	32
33. Consideration of Lobatchewskyan or hyperbolic plane geometry	34
34. Hilbert's axiom	34
35. Saccheri's quadrilateral	35
36. The limiting curves of sets of parallel lines and the funda- mental congruence theorem associated with them	36
37. The line-element in hyperbolic geometry	38
38. The value of the angle of parallelism in hyperbolic space	38
39. The self-consistency of hyperbolic geometry	39
40. The analogue with sets of circles orthogonal to a given circle	40
41. The analogue to displacements of a rigid body	41
42. The utility of the circular analogue. Various examples	42
43. Riemannian or spherical geometry, and its assumptions	44
44. The pole of a line: spherical and 'elliptic' geometry	44
45. Riemannian plane geometry is, in effect, that of a sphere	45
46. The theory of groups of displacements of a rigid body as the basis of geometry	46
47. The idea of space as homogeneous, isotropic and un- bounded	47
48. The two sub-groups of rotation which exist for all types of space	47
49. Euclidean space and the parallel displacement sub-group	48
50. "If there were no solid bodies we should not have geo- metry"	49

CONTENTS

vii

LECTURE IV

RIEMANN'S GENERAL THEORY OF SPACE

§ 51. Introduction	<i>page</i> 51
52. Intrinsic geometry of a surface	52
53. Gaussian coordinates	53
54. The line-element in Riemann's generalised space	53
55. Geodesics of a manifold	55
56. Outline of Riemann's investigation	55
57. The measurement of angles	58
58. Parallelism with respect to a surface	59
59. Infinitesimal parallel displacement	59
60. Such displacements satisfy the parallelogram rule	62
61. The extension to n -dimensional manifolds	63
62. Parallel displacement round an infinitesimal parallelo- gram	64
63. The Riemann-Christoffel tensor	66
64. Sections of a manifold and the change in a vector after describing an infinitesimal circuit lying in a given section. Pérés' formula	74
65. The total or Gaussian curvature of a two-dimensional surface	76
66. Use of geodesic surfaces to determine the curvatures of an n -dimensional manifold at an assigned point	79
67. The condition that generalised space should be flat	80
68. Application to our three-dimensional space and to similar n -dimensional manifolds	81
69. The canonical form for the line-element in generalised space of constant curvature	83
70. Some transformations of the canonical form for three- dimensional space	87
71. A geometrical interpretation of three-dimensional space of constant positive curvature	88
72. Canonical forms for homogeneous and isotropic three- dimensional space	88
73. The true range and value of Riemann's achievement	89
74. The nature of the space of common experience in the light of Riemann's analysis	90
<i>Résumé</i> of properties of (1) Euclidean, (2) hyperbolic and (3) spherical space	90

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-73022-8 - Scientific Theory and Religion: The World Described by Science
and its Spiritual Interpretation

Ernest William Barnes

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

viii

CONTENTS

§ 75. The analytical investigation of plane hyperbolic geometry	<i>page</i> 92
76. Lobatchewskyan geometry of the plane is that of the pseudo-sphere in Euclidean space	93
77. The volume of Lobatchewskyan space	93
78. Riemannian geometry of the plane is that of the sphere in Euclidean space	94
79. The volume of spherical or Riemannian space of three dimensions	94
80. Properties of Riemannian space	96
81. To which of the three possible types does our space belong?	96

LECTURE V

SPACE-TIME: THE SPECIAL THEORY OF RELATIVITY

82. The measurement and interconnection of space and time	98
83. Absolute space	99
84. Does absolute rotation exist? The views of Newton and Mach	100
85. The belief in absolute chronometric time	101
86. The belief in absolute simultaneity	103
87. Two fundamental enquiries	103
88. The Michelson-Morley experiment	104
89. The fundamental result of the special theory of relativity	105
90. The restricted principle of relativity	107
91. The Fitzgerald-Lorentz contraction	108
92. The equations of the Lorentz transformation	109
93. Einstein's deduction of the Lorentz transformation	110
94. The Lorentz transformation for infinitesimals	112
95. Time-measurements in the special theory of relativity	112
96. The space-time continuum and the interval	114
97. Minkowski's world and its stratification	116
98. Geometrical illustration of the way in which different observers break up the space-time continuum	117
99. The order of events in the world	119
100. Weyl's picture of 'the scene of reality'	122
101. Composition of velocities according to the special theory of relativity	122
102. Fizeau's experiment	123
103. The fundamental definitions of the mechanics of the special theory of relativity	123

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-73022-8 - Scientific Theory and Religion: The World Described by Science
and its Spiritual Interpretation

Ernest William Barnes

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

ix

§ 104. The fundamental law of kinetics, and its transformation in the special theory of relativity	<i>page</i> 126
105. Minkowski's world. Time and proper-time. The 'four- velocity' and 'four-acceleration' vectors	126
106. The fundamental dynamical equations of the special theory of relativity	128
107. The equivalence of mass and energy	131

LECTURE VI. GENERAL RELATIVITY

108. The fundamental limitation of the special theory of relativity	134
109. The 'reality' of centrifugal forces	134
110. Does absolute rotation exist?	134
111. The equality of inertial and gravitational mass	135
112. The likeness between gravitational and uniformly ac- celerated regions	136
113. The passage from the special to the general theory of relativity	136
114. The type of mathematical analysis needed in the general theory of relativity	137
115. Riemann's symbols and other tensors deducible there- from	138
116. Divergence. Covariant differentiation	142
117. The fundamental identities of the general theory of relativity	147
118. The stress-tensor at a point in a continuous material medium	148
119. The Newtonian equations of motion in such a medium	150
120. A symmetrical form for such equations	151
121. A modified form of these equations in which time has not a privileged position	152
122. The energy-momentum-stress tensor	154
123. The connection between mechanics and geometry	159
124. Einstein's gravitational equations of the general theory of relativity	160
125. The curvature of a region of space-time containing neither matter nor energy	161
126. The justification of Einstein's gravitational equations	166

BST

b

Cambridge University Press
 978-0-521-73022-8 - Scientific Theory and Religion: The World Described by Science
 and its Spiritual Interpretation
 Ernest William Barnes
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

x

CONTENTS

§ 127. The problem of two bodies is insoluble in Einsteinian dynamics	<i>page</i> 169
128. The gravitational field of an isolated particle	170
129. Einstein's equations for the orbit of a planet moving round the sun	172
130. The motion of the perihelion of Mercury	173
131. The bending of rays of light near the sun	174
132. The spectrum-shift due to a strong gravitational field	176
133. Gravitation is due to the warping of space-time	177
134. The law of gravitation is a disguised identity	178
135. Our measures of matter and momentum are determined by the warping of space-time	178
136. The position of the law of conservation of energy in Einsteinian mechanics	180
137. Is space finite?	183
138. The objection to a Newtonian-Euclidean cosmos	184
139. Einstein's time-cylindrical cosmos	184
140. de Sitter's cosmos	187
141. General relativity and the Maxwell field-equations	189
142. Conclusions and speculations	190

LECTURE VII

THE ELECTRICAL THEORY OF MATTER

143. Electricity and magnetism: the original discoveries	193
144. Maxwell's achievement	193
145. Electricity and matter	193
146. Coulomb's law. What is electricity? Electrons. Ions	194
147. The nature of an electron	197
148. Radiation	200
149. The inertia of an electron	202
150. The ether	202
151. The inertia of light	204
152. The energy of matter	204
153. Can we create electrons?	205
154. X-rays: origin: properties and spectra	206
155. The radio-active process: and the law of radio-active decomposition	207
156. The age of the earth	209
157. The puzzle of uranium	210

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-73022-8 - Scientific Theory and Religion: The World Described by Science
and its Spiritual Interpretation

Ernest William Barnes

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

xi

§ 158. The products of radio-active disintegration: and the nature of the process	<i>page</i> 211
159. The electrical constitution of matter	212
160. The ordering of the elements	213
161. The sizes of atoms, electrons and protons	215
162. Bohr's model of the atom	217
163. Chemical combination	219
164. Isotopes	219
165. The spectrum of an element and its origin	221
166. A comparison with the solar system	222
167. The spectrum of hydrogen	222
168. Perplexities due to the Bohr model	223
169. Is free-will possible in inanimate nature?	224
170. Some further enquiries	225

LECTURE VIII. HEAT AND LIGHT

171. Heat and change of state of bodies	227
172. Pressure and temperature	227
173. Boyle's law: Charles' law	228
174. The graduation of an air thermometer	229
175. Absolute zero	229
176. Work done by an expanding gas	230
177. The first law of thermodynamics	231
178. The character and origin of the second law of thermo- dynamics	231
179. Carnot's reversible engine	231
180. Carnot's principle and efficiency function	232
181. The absolute (Kelvin) scale of temperature	233
182. An expression for the efficiency of a reversible engine	234
183. The indicator-diagram for Carnot's cycle. Isothermals and adiabatics	235
184. Entropy: must increase with spontaneous change in a physical system	236
185. The two fundamental principles of thermodynamics	237
186. The nature of entropy	238
187. Entropy and the direction of time: the end of the Uni- verse	238
188. Light: an electro-magnetic phenomenon	240

b 2

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-73022-8 - Scientific Theory and Religion: The World Described by Science
and its Spiritual Interpretation

Ernest William Barnes

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xii

CONTENTS

§ 189. The polarisation of light	<i>page</i> 242
190. The intensity of radiation: radiation pressure: comets and their tails	242
191. The Doppler effect	244
192. Isotropic radiation	246
193. Equilibrium of radiation: the balancing of absorption and emission	247
194. Black-body radiation	249
195. Radiation from the sun and stars: from planets: within a star	249
196. Absorption lines	251
197. Stefan's law	253
198. Planck's law	254
199. Visual magnitudes and Fechner's law	255
200. Measures of magnitude: absolute magnitude: the Purkinje effect	256
201. Radiation and human sight	258

LECTURE IX

THE QUANTUM THEORY AND RÖNTGEN RAYS

202. The first form of the quantum theory	261
203. The photo-electric effect	262
204. The connection between energy emitted by an atom and the frequency of the radiation produced	263
205. The generalised form of the quantum theory: action is atomic	264
206. Bohr's theory of the hydrogen spectrum	267
207. Elliptic orbits for the hydrogen atom	269
208. The periodic system of the elements	273
209. Wave mechanics and the Born-Dirac calculus	275
210. The Heisenberg uncertainty-relations	279
211. The present state of the quantum theory. Lindemann's speculations. The concepts of space and time	281
212. Röntgen radiation: the two types	284
213. The origin of characteristic X-rays	286
214. The connection between such rays and the atomic number of an element	287
215. The <i>K</i> -, <i>L</i> - and <i>M</i> -series of spectral lines	288
216. The interference of light	290

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-73022-8 - Scientific Theory and Religion: The World Described by Science
and its Spiritual Interpretation

Ernest William Barnes

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

xiii

§ 217. The diffraction of light: diffraction gratings	<i>page</i> 291
218. The direct passage of plane waves through a slit	293
219. Theory of a plane transmission grating	295
220. Diffraction by a crossed grating or lattice	297
221. Diffraction by a space-lattice: equivalent to a series of reflections	298
222. Crystals	300
223. The diamond	301
224. Arrangement and Creative Activity	302
225. Crystal measurements of, and by, X-rays	303
226. The achievement of X-ray analysis	304
227. General conclusions	306

LECTURE X. THE SOLAR SYSTEM

228. Ancient speculation	311
229. The rise and triumph of the heliocentric theory. Kepler's laws	312
230. Newton's fundamental assumption	313
231. The members of the solar system	314
232. The earth: its shape, size, density and mass	314
233. The distance and size of the sun	314
234. The sun's mass and density	315
235. The planets in general	317
236. Laplace's theory of the origin of the solar system	318
237. The modern theory	318
238. The origin of the earth-moon system	319
239. The moon	320
240. Velocity of escape	321
241. Conditions of escape of a gas from a planet's atmosphere. Atmospheres of moon, sun and earth	322
242. Other worlds than ours	323
243. Are Venus and Mars inhabited?	324
244. The tides: the equilibrium theory	327
245. The tides in theory and observation	329
246. Tidal friction: the lengthening of the day: ancient observations: effect of tidal friction on the moon's motion	329
247. The past of the earth-moon system: its future	333
248. The end of the earth-moon system	334

LECTURE XI

THE GALACTIC UNIVERSE AND THE GREAT NEBULAE

THE GALACTIC UNIVERSE

§ 249. The 'fixed' stars	<i>page</i> 336
250. Instruments	336
251. The interferometer	337
252. Astronomical measures of distance	339
253. The shape and size of the galactic universe	340
254. The unity of the galactic universe	341
255. The distances of the stars	343
256. The open and globular clusters	343
257. The cepheid variables	345
258. Giant and dwarf stars	346
259. White dwarfs	348
260. Spectroscopic parallaxes	349
261. The total number of the stars	350
262. Stellar radiation	351
263. The radiant energy emitted by the sun	353
264. Radiation emitted by the stars	354
265. Where does the sun's energy come from?	355
266. Consequences of the annihilation hypothesis	356
267. The motions of the stars	357
268. Binary stars	358
269. Visual and spectroscopic binaries	358
270. The mass-luminosity relation	361
271. Eclipsing binaries	362
272. The contrast between visual and spectroscopic binaries	362
273. The ages of the stars	363
274. Moving clusters	364
275. Star-streaming and differential galactic rotation	365
276. Novae or temporary stars	368
277. The future of stars, sun and earth	371
278. The observing of the nebulae	372
279. Galactic nebulae	372

THE GREAT NEBULAE

280. The great nebulae: their number	374
281. The shapes of the great nebulae: their spectra	375
282. The distances of the great nebulae	377

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-73022-8 - Scientific Theory and Religion: The World Described by Science
and its Spiritual Interpretation

Ernest William Barnes

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

xv

§ 283. The sizes of the great nebulae	<i>page</i> 378
284. The velocities of the great nebulae	379
285. Lemaître's expanding (or contracting) cosmos	381
286. The instability of the Einstein cosmos	384
287. Geodesics in the Lemaître cosmos	384
288. Pressure, density and mass in this cosmos	385
289. The Doppler effect in this cosmos	387
290. The present size of our cosmos: its mass	389
291. Some general reflections. Man and the cosmos	392
292. The probable origin of the cosmos: and of stars	395
293. A final enigma	397
294. Are there other planetary systems?	398
295. The frequency of stellar encounters	398
296. The number of planetary systems in regions of local star-density	401
297. Life elsewhere in the galactic universe	401
298. Is the whole cosmos the home of intelligent beings?	403
299. The final state of the cosmos	404
300. Cosmic rays and the annihilation of matter	404
301. Extrapolation and its risks	406
302. Need we postulate Divine intervention?	408

LECTURE XII

THE ORIGIN OF LIFE AND THE GEOLOGICAL RECORD

THE ORIGIN OF LIFE

303. The coming of life to the earth	411
304. Geology and the origin of life	411
305. The living probably emerged from the non-living	412
306. Arguments in favour of 'spontaneous generation'	413
307. 'In the beginning'	413
308. The three fundamental elements of organic chemistry	414
309. The preparation for life	415
310. The ascent to life	415
311. The first life	416
312. Primitive organisms: of one type or many?	416
313. Was the earth's initial covering of gases essential or merely convenient?	417
314. Does life's supposed origin give any clue to its nature?	419

THE GEOLOGICAL RECORD

§ 315. The rise of geological investigation	<i>page</i> 420
316. Gaps in the geological record	421
317. The ages of the different strata of the earth	421
318. Measurements by radio-active decomposition	422
319. The main geological formations	423
320. The Archaeozoic era	424
321. The Palaeozoic era	425
322. The Mesozoic era	427
323. The origin of the birds	427
324. The early mammals	428
325. The Tertiary era: its divisions	428
326. Tertiary geography	430
327. The destruction of species	431
328. The history of the horse	431
329. A mammalian slaughter	432
330. Man's end?	432

LECTURE XIII

THE EVOLUTION OF PLANTS AND SEX

THE EVOLUTION OF PLANTS

331. The similarity of animals and plants	434
332. The most primitive plants	435
333. Liverworts and mosses: club-mosses	436
334. Spores and seeds	437
335. Ferns and seed-ferns	437
336. The great botanical eras	438
337. The age of cycads: descent or independent evolution	438
338. The last botanical transformation	440
339. Mammals and angiosperms	441
340. Dicotyledons and monocotyledons	441
341. Change in the Tertiary era	442
342. Conclusion	442

SEX

343. The basal facts: secondary differences	443
344. The reproductive cells	444
345. Sexual fusion	445

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-73022-8 - Scientific Theory and Religion: The World Described by Science
and its Spiritual Interpretation

Ernest William Barnes

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

xvii

§ 346. The distribution of the sex-chromosomes: the two sexes must be roughly equal in numbers	<i>page</i> 446
347. An alternative sex-mechanism	447
348. Inter-sexes and super-sexes	448
349. Parthenogenesis: haploid males and diploid females. Artificial parthenogenesis	451
350. Ants, bees and wasps	452
351. The termites	453
352. The advance of social organisation among the bees	454
353. Instinct and intelligence: the salt of life	456
354. The Virgin Birth	457

LECTURE XIV

THE EVOLUTION OF ANIMALS AND MENDELISM

THE EVOLUTION OF ANIMALS

355. Evolution and religious prejudice	459
356. The nature of species	460
357–360. The main arguments for evolution:	
(1) The geological record	462
(2) The evidence from embryology	462
(3) The existence of useless organs	465
(4) The geographical distribution of animals	467
361. Missing links	469
362. The origin of the vertebrates	470
363. The transition to the amphibians and thence to the mammals	471
364. The moral significance of the development of the herd- instinct	473
365. Mind versus material protection	474

MENDELISM

366. Mendel's work and its significance	475
367. Mendel's fundamental experiment	475
368. Mendel's first law	477
369. The law of independent assortment	478
370. Linkage-groups	479
371. Morgan's restatement of Mendel's laws of inheritance	480
372. Mutant characters	482

Cambridge University Press
 978-0-521-73022-8 - Scientific Theory and Religion: The World Described by Science
 and its Spiritual Interpretation
 Ernest William Barnes
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

xviii

CONTENTS

§ 373. The contrast between Mendelian and blending inheritance	<i>page</i> 484
374. Mutations in humanity	485
375. The persistence of mutations in humanity	488
376. Sex-linked defects	489
377. Mental mutations in humanity	491
378. Feeble-mindedness	491
379. Insanity	495
380. Lethal mutations	497
381. Inbreeding	498
382. Can dysgenic mutations be reversed?	498
383. Mutations and short-wave radiation	499
384. The sexual cycle in animals and plants	501
385. Has the sex-mechanism arisen independently in animals and plants?	501
386. The future of the evolutionary process	502

LECTURE XV. THE MACHINERY OF EVOLUTION

387. Charles Darwin's achievement	504
388. The fact of variation	505
389. Fluctuation	506
390. Natural selection	506
391. How does variability arise?	508
392. Weismann's position	509
393. Criticisms of Lamarckism	510
394. Dürken's experiments	511
395. Johannsen's experiments: fluctuations are not inherited	512
396. Further arguments against the inheritance of acquired characters	514
397. The raw material of evolution	515
398. Genetic variation the vehicle of emergence	518
399. Evolution the result of external creative activity	519
400. Is God's creative activity non-moral?	520
401. Man and the cosmic process	522
402. The sternness of God	523
403. The genetic process and predestination	523

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-73022-8 - Scientific Theory and Religion: The World Described by Science
and its Spiritual Interpretation

Ernest William Barnes

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

xix

LECTURE XVI. MAN'S ORIGIN AND PAST

§ 404. Man's place among the Primates	<i>page</i> 525
405. The earliest Primates	525
406. The development of the Primates	526
407. Man's emergence	527
408. Where and when did man emerge?	528
409. The Java ape-man	530
410. The Piltdown remains	530
411. Peking man	531
412. Heidelberg man	532
413. Neanderthal man	532
414. The coming of <i>homo sapiens</i>	534
415. The men and culture of the Reindeer Age	535
416. The differences between Palaeolithic and Neolithic culture	537
417. Iberians and Nordics	537
418. The cradle of humanity	538
419. The antiquity of man	539
420. The evolution of human intelligence	542
421. The development of brain and speech	543
422. The faint dawn of civilisation	543
423. The Reindeer Age civilisation	544
424. Characteristics of primitive religion	545
425. Animism	546
426. The practical nature of primitive magic and religion	546
427. The relation between magic and primitive religion	547
428. Primitive religion and totemism	549
429. The development of primitive religion	550

LECTURE XVII

SCIENTIFIC THEORY AND THE 'REAL' WORLD

430. Introduction	552
431. Naïve realism: physical realism	553
432. Individual experience	554
433. Collective experience: public knowledge	555
434. The synthetic activity of the intellect	556
435. The Newtonian philosophy	557

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-73022-8 - Scientific Theory and Religion: The World Described by Science
and its Spiritual Interpretation

Ernest William Barnes

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xx

CONTENTS

§ 436. Space and time	<i>page</i> 559
437. Realism and Idealism: moderate realism: theism	562
438. A possible cosmos of monads	566
439. Cause	567
440. Substance	570
441. Phenomenalism	573
442. Materialism and agnostic naturalism	575
443. Mechanistic determinism	577
444. The problem of consciousness: psycho-physical paral- lelism	580
445. Freedom and natural law	582

LECTURE XVIII

GOD AND OUR BELIEF IN HIS EXISTENCE

446. Scientific experience: general conclusions	586
447. Experience and 'Spiritualism'	587
448. The dualism of natural and supernatural rejected	588
449. Emergence	590
450. Purposiveness in emergence	592
451. The existence of God	593
452. The ontological argument and its rejection	594
453. The cosmological argument	595
454. The teleological argument	597
455. Faith in God	599
456. The natural sciences and qualitative judgments	600
457. Individuality, value and quality	601
458. The rise of moral consciousness	601
459. Ethical judgments	603
460. The realms of Nature and of moral order	604
461. The moral argument for God's existence	605
462. The absolute values	606

LECTURE XIX. RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE

463. Normal religious experience	609
464. Prayer	611
465. Does God answer prayer?	612
466. Conversion	613
467. The psychology of conversion	614
468. The value of conversion	615

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-73022-8 - Scientific Theory and Religion: The World Described by Science
and its Spiritual Interpretation

Ernest William Barnes

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

xxi

§ 469. Conversion and 'fundamentalism'	<i>page</i> 616
470. Mystical experience	617
471. Illustrations of mystical experience	619
472. The 'dark night of the soul'	621
473. The worth of mystical experience	623
474. Induced experience	624
475. The problem of public worship	626
476. Sacraments	626
477. The necessity for guided religious experience	628
478. The revival of pagan sacramentalism	629
479. Religious degeneration	631
480. Religious ecstasy must be subject to morality and reason	632
481. Religious experience and dogmatic assertion	633
482. The duty of religious teachers	635

LECTURE XX. IMMORTALITY

483. Soul and body	636
484. The resurrection of the body	637
485. Man's decisive separation from the lower animals	638
486. The background of belief in immortality: pantheism and impersonal immortality	638
487. Spinoza and immortality	640
488. God as the Absolute	641
489. The rejection of Absolutist theories	642
490. The self as <i>Ego</i>	643
491. Christian theism and immortality	644
492. Immortality and the conservation of values	646
493. Pantheism and theism	647
494. Immortality and time	650
495. Personality and the psycho-physical organism	652

CONCLUSION

496. The present and the immediate future of religious faith	653
497. The character of the lectures	654
498. The advance of knowledge	655
499. Here and hereafter	656
Appendix	658
Index	661

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Ernest William Barnes
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

FOREWORD

In publishing these lectures I would first of all thank the *Senatus Academicus* of the University of Aberdeen for the honour which they conferred upon me in the year 1925 by inviting me to be Gifford Lecturer. To Sir George Adam Smith, the Principal of the University, I am indebted for many kindnesses both in connection with the lectures and on other occasions: of the hospitality which was received from Lady Adam Smith and himself, when the lectures were being delivered, most happy memories remain. There were many in Aberdeen who combined to make visits there enjoyable; and not least would I thank those who attended the lectures and made the lecturer feel that his labour in preparing them had not been in vain.

Of the lectures themselves I would merely say that, wide as is their range, they have an inner coherence. I trust that they express the attitude of the modern man of science who, as he hopefully makes theories, is aware of the limitations of his knowledge and also, in part because of his loyalty to truth, bears in mind the reality and the claims of the spiritual world.

Since the lectures were given they have been extensively revised and some recent developments of knowledge have been included.

Acknowledgments are, I trust, adequately made in the lectures. Of those now living in this country to whom I am specially indebted I would mention my old teacher, Professor E. W. Hobson, whose own Gifford Lectures I have constantly consulted, Professor S. Alexander and Professor J. S. Haldane. If Hastings Rashdall, lately Dean of Carlisle, had not died before his time, I would rejoice to say how much talks with him had helped me in my thinking. He and Fenton John Anthony Hort were, among those no longer living, the greatest men of the Modernist movement in English theology.

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xxiv

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Finally, my wife has helped me with constant encouragement and criticism: and my secretary, Miss N. M. V. Owen, daughter of the late Bishop of St David's, has been unwearied in preparing clean type-script from rough and illegible manuscript. I am ashamed to recall how often certain passages have been recast without, from her, a murmur of complaint.

E. W. B.

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