

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-00524-1 - Man on his Nature
Charles Scott Sherrington
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE LIBRARY COLLECTION

Books of enduring scholarly value

Religion

For centuries, scripture and theology were the focus of prodigious amounts of scholarship and publishing, dominated in the English-speaking world by the work of Protestant Christians. Enlightenment philosophy and science, anthropology, ethnology and the colonial experience all brought new perspectives, lively debates and heated controversies to the study of religion and its role in the world, many of which continue to this day. This series explores the editing and interpretation of religious texts, the history of religious ideas and institutions, and not least the encounter between religion and science.

Man on his Nature

Based on the Gifford Lectures of 1937-8 in Edinburgh, Nobel Prize winner Charles Sherrington's 1940 study addresses the nature of the mind and its relationship to life and matter. The book centres on the writings of the little-known sixteenth-century physician Jean Fernel. After setting out Fernel's views on the nature of man, Sherrington proceeds to develop his own thoughts, drawing upon a wide variety of philosophical theories. Using Fernel as a historical case study, the book demonstrates how any scientific outlook is always part of its age, and shows how views on the eternal enigmas of mankind, mind and life have changed radically over time. Sherrington's book is important in the history of ideas for its assessment of the value of advances in natural science as a framework for the development of natural theology.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-00524-1 - Man on his Nature
Charles Scott Sherrington
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press has long been a pioneer in the reissuing of out-of-print titles from its own backlist, producing digital reprints of books that are still sought after by scholars and students but could not be reprinted economically using traditional technology. The Cambridge Library Collection extends this activity to a wider range of books which are still of importance to researchers and professionals, either for the source material they contain, or as landmarks in the history of their academic discipline.

Drawing from the world-renowned collections in the Cambridge University Library, and guided by the advice of experts in each subject area, Cambridge University Press is using state-of-the-art scanning machines in its own Printing House to capture the content of each book selected for inclusion. The files are processed to give a consistently clear, crisp image, and the books finished to the high quality standard for which the Press is recognised around the world. The latest print-on-demand technology ensures that the books will remain available indefinitely, and that orders for single or multiple copies can quickly be supplied.

The Cambridge Library Collection will bring back to life books of enduring scholarly value across a wide range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences and in science and technology.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-00524-1 - Man on his Nature
Charles Scott Sherrington
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Man on his Nature

SIR CHARLES SCOTT SHERRINGTON



Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-00524-1 - Man on his Nature
Charles Scott Sherrington
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge New York Melbourne Madrid Cape Town Singapore São Paulo Delhi

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108005241

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2009

This edition first published
This digitally printed version 2009

ISBN 978-1-108-00524-1

This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-00524-1 - Man on his Nature
Charles Scott Sherrington
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Man on his Nature

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-00524-1 - Man on his Nature
Charles Scott Sherrington
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS
LONDON: BENTLEY HOUSE
NEW YORK, TORONTO, BOMBAY
CALCUTTA, MADRAS: MACMILLAN
TOKYO: MARUZEN COMPANY LTD

All rights reserved

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-00524-1 - Man on his Nature
Charles Scott Sherrington
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Man on his Nature

by

SIR CHARLES SHERRINGTON
O. M.

THE GIFFORD LECTURES
EDINBURGH
1937-8

CAMBRIDGE
AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS
1940

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-00524-1 - Man on his Nature
Charles Scott Sherrington
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN

Preface

I FIND a word of preface is expected for this volume, and it comes welcomingly to me here to thank the University of Edinburgh for the invitation to give these lectures. The invitation indeed overcame some hesitation on my part which readers of these pages, I can think, may find intelligible.

As to acknowledgements, Sir S. R. Christophers, F.R.S., a friend of many years, has been so kind as to read through for me in proof an excursion into the parasitology of malaria made in my final chapter. To my friend Mr J. Reid Moir, F.R.S., I am indebted for a like good office in regard to the text's occasional references to ways and works of prehistoric man, and other kindred themes.

At numerous places, especially in its opening chapters, my text turns to the writings of a sixteenth-century physician, Jean Fernel, a figure probably now little known except to the historian of Medicine. It is hoped, however, to issue about him in the near future a more documented account, biographical and bibliographical.

Lastly I would acknowledge with gratitude the care and skill given to the issue of this volume by the University Press, and I would convey my thanks to Dr Robert Chambers for his readiness to allow me the reproduction of two noteworthy microphotographs from his laboratory.

C. S. S.

August 1940

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-00524-1 - Man on his Nature
Charles Scott Sherrington
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Contents

I	Nature and Tradition	<i>page</i> 1
II	The Natural and Superstition	33
III	Life in Little	67
IV	The Wisdom of the Body	103
V	Earth's Reshuffling	137
VI	A Whole Presupposed of its Parts	171
VII	The Brain and its Work	203
VIII	The Organ of Liaison	235
IX	Brain Collaborates with Psyche	263
X	Earth's Alchemy	293
XI	Two Ways of one Mind	323
XII	Conflict with Nature	359
	Index	405

Illustrations

PLATES

I	Title-page from Fanti	<i>facing page 52</i>
II	Macrocosm—Microcosm from Robert Fludd	54
III	<i>Sphaera mundi</i> , from John of Holywood	59
IV	Blood and nerve cells	74
V	Entrance of the cat's ear	112
	Muscle fibre	112
VI	Human egg and egg of sea-urchin	118
	Experiment on sea-urchin egg (Chambers)	118
VII	Scourging of the Apostles	337

IN THE TEXT

Jean Fernel	<i>page 7</i>
Woodcut from Nifo [Agostino], Bologna, 1520	56
Equivocal figure	276
Temporal discontinuity of finite mind	318
Life-history of malarial parasite	369