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WITTGENSTEIN ON CRITERIA AND PRACTICES

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Wittgenstein on Criteria and Practices

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Abstract: In interpretive literature from the 1950s through the 1970s, the term 'criterion' was thought to be a central key to the understanding of Wittgenstein's later philosophy. Later on, it was relegated from this place of honour to being one of a variety of expressions used by Wittgenstein in dealing with philosophical questions. This Element tries to account for the shifting fate of this concept. It discusses the various occurrences of the word 'criteria' in *Philosophical Investigations*, argues that the post-Wittgensteinian debate about criteria was put on the wrong track by a problematic passage in Wittgenstein's early *Blue Book*, and finally gives an overview of the main contributions to this debate, trying to achieve a reconciliation between the rival conceptions.

Keywords: Wittgenstein, criteria, practice, philosophy of mind, philosophy of language

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Contents

Introduction	1
1 'Criteria' in <i>Philosophical Investigations</i>	7
2 Practices	20
3 <i>The Blue Book</i> : The Case of Angina	28
4 The Post-Wittgensteinian Debate	29
5 Some Issues in the Debate about Criteria	39
Conclusion	49
Bibliography	51