

**PHILOSOPHY**

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Philosophy by Nicholas Murray Butler

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**NICHOLAS MURRAY BUTLER**

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MARCH 4, 1908**

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AND LETTERS

*THIRD THOUSAND*



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## PREFACE

THIS lecture was delivered as one of a series, the purpose of which was to present in summary and compact form a view of each of several sciences and of philosophy as these exist at the present day. In outlining philosophy, its subject-matter and its method, it was the purpose of the lecture clearly to differentiate philosophy from science, and to cut away the odd and unfitting scientific garments in which some contemporary writers have sought to clothe philosophy. Some of the passing forms of so-called philosophic thought are wholly below the plane on which philosophy moves. They are not philosophy, nor yet philosophies; they are travesties of both.

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No one who has not grasped the distinction between the three orders of thinking, or ways of knowing, can hope, I think, to understand what philosophy is or what the word philosophy means. To call something philosophy is not to make it so.

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