TABLE OF CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

THE SUBJECT-MATTER OF ETHICS.

1. In order to define Ethics, we must discover what is both common

A.

and to other things. The subjects of the judgments of a scientific Ethics are not, like those of some studies, 'particular things'; but it includes all universal judgments which assert the relation of 'goodness' to any subject, and hence includes Casuistry. B. It must, however, enquire not only what things are universally related to goodness, but also, what this predicate, to which they are related, is: and the answer to this question is that it is indefinable. or simple: for if by definition be meant the analysis of an object of thought, only complex objects can be defined; and of the three senses in which 'definition' can be used, this is the most important. What is thus indefinable is not 'the good,' or the whole of that which always possesses the predicate 'good,' but this predicate itself. 'Good,' then, denotes one unique simple object of thought among innumerable others; but this object has very commonly been identified with some other—a fallacy which may be called 'the naturalistic fallacy' M.	an conduct, cate 'good,' to conduct	but that they are concerned with a certain predicate 'and its converse 'bad,' which may be applied both to co	2.
those of some studies, 'particular things'; 4. but it includes all universal judgments which assert the relation of 'goodness' to any subject, and hence includes Casuistry B. 5. It must, however, enquire not only what things are universally related to goodness, but also, what this predicate, to which they are related, is: 6. and the answer to this question is that it is indefinable 7. or simple: for if by definition be meant the analysis of an object of thought, only complex objects can be defined; 8. and of the three senses in which 'definition' can be used, this is the most important. 9. What is thus indefinable is not 'the good,' or the whole of that which always possesses the predicate 'good,' but this predicate itself. 10. 'Good,' then, denotes one unique simple object of thought among innumerable others; but this object has very commonly been identified with some other—a fallacy which may be called 'the naturalistic fallacy'	re not. like	and to other things. The subjects of the judgments of a scientific Ethics are no	3.
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related to goodness, but also, what this predicate, to which they are related, is: 6. and the answer to this question is that it is indefinable 7. or simple; for if by definition be meant the analysis of an object of thought, only complex objects can be defined; 8. and of the three senses in which 'definition' can be used, this is the most important. 9. What is thus indefinable is not 'the good,' or the whole of that which always possesses the predicate 'good,' but this predicate itself. 10. 'Good,' then, denotes one unique simple object of thought among innumerable others; but this object has very commonly been identified with some other—a fallacy which may be called 'the naturalistic fallacy'		В.	
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 9. What is thus indefinable is not 'the good,' or the whole of that which always possesses the predicate 'good,' but this predicate itself. 10. 'Good,' then, denotes one unique simple object of thought among innumerable others; but this object has very commonly been identified with some other—a fallacy which may be called 'the naturalistic fallacy' 		and of the three senses in which 'definition' can be used	8.
10. 'Good,' then, denotes one unique simple object of thought among innumerable others; but this object has very commonly been identified with some other—a fallacy which may be called 'the naturalistic fallacy'.	ole of that	What is thus indefinable is not 'the good,' or the whole of which always possesses the predicate 'good,' but this pred	9.
innumerable others; but this object has very commonly been identified with some other—a fallacy which may be called 'the naturalistic fallacy'			10.
м. в	monly been	innumerable others; but this object has very commonly identified with some other—a fallacy which may be	
	b	м.	

SECI	•	140.
11.	and which reduces what is used as a fundamental principle of Ethics either to a tautology or to a statement about the meaning of a word.	10
12. 13.	The nature of this fallacy is easily recognised; and if it were avoided, it would be plain that the only alternatives to the admission that 'good' is indefinable, are either that it is complex or that there is no notion at all peculiar to Ethics—alternatives which can only be refuted by an	12
14.	appeal to inspection, but which can be so refuted. The 'naturalistic fallacy' illustrated by Bentham; and the importance of avoiding it pointed out.	15 17
	C.	
15.	The relations which ethical judgments assert to hold universally between 'goodness' and other things are of two kinds: a thing may be asserted either to be good itself or to be causally related to something else which is itself good—to be 'good as a means.'	21
16.	Our investigations of the latter kind of relation cannot hope to establish more than that a certain kind of action will <i>generally</i> be followed by the best possible results;	22
17.	but a relation of the former kind, if true at all, will be true of all cases. All ordinary ethical judgments assert causal relations, but they are commonly treated as if they did not, because the two kinds of relation are not distinguished.	23
	D.	
18.	The investigation of intrinsic values is complicated by the fact that the value of a whole may be different from the sum of the values of its parts,	27
19.	in which case the part has to the whole a relation, which exhibits an equally important difference from and resemblance to that of means to end.	29
20.	The term 'organic whole' might well be used to denote that a whole has this property, since, of the two other properties which it is commonly used to imply,	3 0
21.	one, that of reciprocal causal dependence between parts, has no necessary relation to this one,	31
22.	and the other, upon which most stress has been laid, can be true of no whole whatsoever, being a self-contradictory con-	33
23.	ception due to confusion	36

CHAPTER II.

		THEFT
NATUH	LALISTIC	ETHICS.

SECT.		PAGE
24. 25.	This and the two following chapters will consider certain proposed answers to the second of ethical questions: What is good in itself? These proposed answers are characterised by the facts (1) that they declare some one kind of thing to be alone good in itself; and (2) that they do so, because they suppose this one thing to define the meaning of 'good.' Such theories may be divided into two groups (1) Metaphysical,	37
	(2) Naturalistic: and the second group may be subdivided into two others, (a) theories which declare some natural object, other than pleasure, to be sole good, (b) Hedonism. The present chapter will deal with (a).	3 8
26.	Definition of what is meant by 'Naturalism.'	39
27.	The common argument that things are good, because they are 'natural,' may involve either (1) the false proposition that	
	the 'normal,' as such, is good;	41
28.	or (2) the false proposition that the 'necessary,' as such, is good.	44
29.	But a systematised appeal to Nature is now most prevalent in connection with the term 'Evolution.' An examination of Mr Herbert Spencer's Ethics will illustrate this form of Naturalism.	45
30.	Darwin's scientific theory of 'natural selection,' which has mainly caused the modern vogue of the term 'Evolution,' must be carefully distinguished from certain ideas which are commonly associated with the latter term	47
31.	Mr Spencer's connection of Evolution with Ethics seems to shew the influence of the naturalistic fallacy;	4 8
32.	but Mr Spencer is vague as to the ethical relations of 'pleasure' and 'evolution,' and his Naturalism may be mainly Naturalistic Hedonism.	49
33.	A discussion of the third chapter of the <i>Data of Ethics</i> serves to illustrate these two points and to shew that Mr Spencer is in utter confusion with regard to the fundamental principles of Ethics.	51
34.	Three possible views as to the relation of Evolution to Ethics are distinguished from the naturalistic view to which it is proposed to confine the name 'Evolutionistic Ethics.' On any of these three views the relation would be unimportant, and the 'Evolutionistic' view, which makes it important, involves a double fallacy.	54
35.	Summary of chapter	58
	b 2	

CHAPTER III.

HEDONISM.

SECT.		PAGE
36.	The prevalence of Hedonism is mainly due to the naturalistic fallacy.	59
37.	Hedonism may be defined as the doctrine that 'Pleasure is the sole good': this doctrine has always been held by Hedonists and used by them as a fundamental ethical principle, although it has commonly been confused with others.	61
38.	The method pursued in this chapter will consist in exposing the reasons commonly offered for the truth of Hedonism and in bringing out the reasons, which suffice to shew it untrue, by a criticism of J. S. Mill & H. Sidgwick.	63
	А.	
39.	Mill declares that 'Happiness is the only thing desirable as an end,' and insists that 'Questions of ultimate ends are not amenable to direct proof';	64
40.	yet he gives a proof of the first proposition, which consists in	04
10.	(1) the fallacious confusion of 'desirable' with 'desired,'	66
41.	(2) an attempt to shew that nothing but pleasure is desired.	67
42.	The theory that nothing but pleasure is desired seems largely due to a confusion between the cause and the object of desire: pleasure is certainly not the sole object of desire, and, even if it is always among the causes of desire, that fact	
43.	would not tempt anyone to think it a good Mill attempts to reconcile his doctrine that pleasure is the sole object of desire with his admission that other things are desired, by the absurd declaration that what is a means to	68
44.	happiness is 'a part' of happiness	71 72
TT.	building of Britis argument and of my orthogen.	, 4
	В.	
45.	We must now proceed to consider the principle of Hedonism as an 'Intuition,' as which it has been clearly recognised by Prof. Sidgwick alone. That it should be thus incapable of	
46.	proof is not, in itself, any reason for dissatisfaction.In thus beginning to consider what things are good in themselves, we leave the refutation of Naturalism behind, and	74
	enter on the second division of ethical questions	76

SECT.		PAGE
47.	Mill's doctrine that some pleasures are superior 'in quality' to others implies both (1) that judgments of ends must be	
	'intuitions';	77
48.	and (2) that pleasure is not the sole good	79
49.	Prof. Sidgwick has avoided these confusions made by Mill: in	
	considering his arguments we shall, therefore, merely con-	
	sider the question 'Is pleasure the sole good?'	81
50 .	Prof. Sidgwick first tries to shew that nothing outside of	
	Human Existence can be good. Reasons are given for	
	doubting this	81
51.	He then goes on to the far more important proposition that no	
	part of Human Existence, except pleasure, is desirable.	85
52.	But pleasure must be distinguished from consciousness of	
	pleasure, and (1) it is plain that, when so distinguished,	
	pleasure is not the sole good;	87
53.	and (2) it may be made equally plain that consciousness of	
	pleasure is not the sole good, if we are equally careful to dis-	
	tinguish it from its usual accompaniments	90
54.	Of Prof. Sidgwick's two arguments for the contrary view, the	
	second is equally compatible with the supposition that	
	pleasure is a mere criterion of what is right;	91
5 5.	and in his first, the appeal to reflective intuition, he fails to	•-
	put the question clearly (1) in that he does not recognise the	
	principle of organic unities;	92
5 6.	and (2) in that he fails to emphasize that the agreement, which	-
	he has tried to shew, between hedonistic judgments and	
	those of Common Sense, only holds of judgments of means:	
	hedonistic judgments of ends are flagrantly paradoxical	94
57.	I conclude, then, that a reflective intuition, if proper precau-	
	tions are taken, will agree with Common Sense that it is	
	absurd to regard mere consciousness of pleasure as the sole	
	good.	95
		-
	a	
	C.	
58.	It remains to consider Egoism and Utilitarianism It is im-	
	portant to distinguish the former, as the doctrine that 'my	
	own pleasure is sole good,' from the doctrine, opposed to	
	Altruism, that to pursue my own pleasure exclusively is	
	right as a means	9 6
59.	Egoism proper is utterly untenable, being self-contradictory:	
	it fails to perceive that when I declare a thing to be my own	
	good, I must be declaring it to be good absolutely or else not	
	mond of all	07

SECT.		PAGE
60.	This confusion is further brought out by an examination of	
	Prof. Sidgwick's contrary view;	99
61.	and it is shewn that, in consequence of this confusion, his representation of 'the relation of Rational Egoism to Rational Benevolence' as 'the profoundest problem of Ethics,' and his view that a certain hypothesis is required to 'make Ethics	
	rational, are grossly erroneous	102
62.	The same confusion is involved in the attempt to infer Utilitarianism from Psychological Hedonism, as commonly	101
63.	held, e.g. by Mill	10 1
00.	with Egoism, as a doctrine of means.	105
64.	Certain ambiguities in the conception of Utilitarianism are noticed; and it is pointed out (1) that, as a doctrine of the end to be pursued, it is finally refuted by the refutation of Hedonism, and (2) that, while the arguments most commonly urged in its favour could, at most, only shew it to offer a correct criterion of right action, they are quite insufficient	
	even for this purpose	105
65.	Summary of chapter	108
	CHAPTER IV. METAPHYSICAL ETHICS.	
	A .	
66.	The term 'metaphysical' is defined as having reference primarily to any object of knowledge which is not a part of Nature—does not exist in time, as an object of perception; but since metaphysicians, not content with pointing out the truth about such entities, have always supposed that what does not exist in Nature, must, at least, exist, the term also	
	has reference to a supposed 'supersensible reality':	110
	and by 'metaphysical Ethics' I mean those systems which maintain or imply that the answer to the question 'What is good?' logically depends upon the answer to the question 'What is the nature of supersensible reality?.' All such systems obviously involve the same fallacy—the 'naturalistic fallacy'—by the use of which Naturalism was also defined.	113
68.	Metaphysics, as dealing with a 'supersensible reality,' may have a bearing upon practical Ethics (1) if its supersensible reality is conceived as something future, which our actions	

SECT	•	PAGE
	can affect; and (2) since it will prove that every proposition of practical Ethics is false, if it can shew that an eternal reality is either the only real thing or the only good thing. Most metaphysical writers, believing in a reality of the latter kind, do thus imply the complete falsehood of every practical proposition, although they fail to see that their Metaphysics thus contradicts their Ethics.	115
	В.	
6 9.	But the theory, by which I have defined Metaphysical Ethics, is not that Metaphysics has a logical bearing upon the question involved in practical Ethics 'What effects will my action produce?' but that it has such a bearing upon the fundamental ethical question 'What is good in itself?'. This theory has been refuted by the proof, in Chap. I, that the naturalistic fallacy is a fallacy: it only remains to discuss certain confusions which seem to have lent it plausibility.	118
70.	One such source of confusion seems to lie in the failure to distinguish between the proposition 'This is good,' when it means 'This existing thing is good,' and the same proposition, when it means 'The existence of this kind of thing would be	
71.	good';	118 121
	C.	
72.	But a more important source of confusion seems to lie in the supposition that 'to be good' is <i>identical</i> with the possession of some supersensible property, which is also involved in	
73.	the definition of 'reality.' One cause of this supposition seems to be the logical prejudice	122
	that all propositions are of the most familiar type—that in which subject and predicate are both existents.	123
74.	But ethical propositions cannot be reduced to this type: in particular, they are obviously to be distinguished	125
75.	(1) from Natural Laws; with which one of Kant's most famous	
76.	doctrines confuses them,	126
	Kant and hy others	127

D.

SECT.	•	PAGE
77.	This latter confusion is one of the sources of the prevalent modern doctrine that 'being good' is identical with 'being willed'; but the prevalence of this doctrine seems to be chiefly due to other causes. I shall try to shew with regard to it (1) what are the chief errors which seem to have led to its adoption; and (2) that, apart from it, the Metaphysics of Volition can hardly have the smallest logical bearing upon Ethics.	128
78.	(1) It has been commonly held, since Kant, that 'goodness' has the same relation to Will or Feeling, which 'truth' or 'reality' has to Cognition: that the proper method for Ethics is to discover what is <i>implied</i> in Will or Feeling, just as, according to Kant, the proper method for Metaphysics was to discover what is <i>implied</i> in Cognition.	129
79.	The actual relations between 'goodness' and Will or Feeling, from which this false doctrine is inferred, seem to be mainly (a) the causal relation consisting in the fact that it is only by reflection upon the experiences of Will and Feeling that we become aware of ethical distinctions; (b) the facts that a cognition of goodness is perhaps always included in certain kinds of Willing and Feeling, and is generally accompanied by them:	130
80.	but from neither of these psychological facts does it follow that 'to be good' is identical with being willed or felt in a certain way. the supposition that it does follow is an instance of the fundamental contradiction of modern Epistemology—the contradiction involved in both distinguishing and identifying the object and the act of Thought, 'truth' itself and its supposed criterion:	131
81.	and, once this analogy between Volition and Cognition is accepted, the view that ethical propositions have an essential reference to Will or Feeling, is strengthened by another error with regard to the nature of Cognition—the error of supposing that 'perception' denotes merely a certain way of cognising an object, whereas it actually includes the assertion that the object is also true.	133
82.	The argument of the last three §§ is recapitulated; and it is pointed out (1) that Volition and Feeling are not analogous to Cognition, (2) that, even if they were, still 'to be good' could not mean 'to be willed or felt in a certain way.'	135
83.	(2) If 'being good' and 'being willed' are not identical, then the latter could only be a criterion of the former; and, in	-

SECT.	order to shew that it was so, we should have to establish	PAGE
	independently that many things were good—that is to say, we should have to establish most of our ethical conclusions, before the Metaphysics of Volition could possibly give us the smallest assistance.	137
84.	The fact that the metaphysical writers who, like Green, attempt to base Ethics on Volition, do not even attempt this independent investigation, shews that they start from the false assumption that goodness is identical with being willed, and hence that their ethical reasonings have no value what-	100
85.	soever	138 139
	CHAPTER V.	
	DESTRUCT IN THE AMION TO CONTINUE	
	ETHICS IN RELATION TO CONDUCT.	
86.	The question to be discussed in this chapter must be clearly distinguished from the two questions hitherto discussed, namely (1) What is the nature of the proposition: 'This is	
87.	good in itself??	142 144
88.	good in itself	
89.	an assertion of causal connection	146
90.	the action in question will be the best possible; and the rest of the chapter will deal with certain conclusions, upon which light is thrown by this fact. Of which the first is (1) that Intuitionism is mistaken; since no proposition	146
91.	with regard to duty can be self-evident. (2) It is plain that we cannot hope to prove which among all the actions, which it is possible for us to perform on every occasion, will produce the best total results: to discover what is our 'duty,' in this strict sense, is impossible. It may, however, be possible to shew which among the actions, which we are likely to perform, will produce the best results.	148 149

SECT		PAGE
92.	The distinction made in the last § is further explained; and it	
	is insisted that all that Ethics has done or can do, is, not to	
	determine absolute duties, but to point out which, among a	
	few of the alternatives, possible under certain circumstances,	
	will have the better results	150
93.	(3) Even this latter task is immensely difficult, and no	
	adequate proof that the total results of one action are	
	superior to those of another, has ever been given. For (a) we	
	can only calculate actual results within a comparatively	
	near future. we must, therefore, assume that no results of	
	the same action in the infinite future beyond, will reverse	
	the balance—an assumption which perhaps can be, but	152
94.	certainly has not been, justified; and (b) even to decide that, of any two actions, one has a better	102
<i>9</i> 4.	total result than the other in the immediate future, is very	
	difficult; and it is very improbable, and quite impossible to	
	prove, that any single action is in all cases better as means	
	than its probable alternative. Rules of duty, even in this	
	restricted sense, can only, at most, be general truths	154
95.	But (c) most of the actions, most universally approved by	
	Common Sense, may perhaps be shewn to be generally	
	better as means than any probable alternative, on the follow-	
	ing principles. (1) With regard to some rules it may be	
	shewn that their general observance would be useful in any	
	state of society, where the instincts to preserve and propa-	
	gate life and to possess property were as strong as they seem	
	always to be; and this utility may be shewn, independently	
	of a right view as to what is good in itself, since the observ-	
	ance is a means to things which are a necessary condition	
	for the attainment of any great goods in considerable	
00	quantities	155
96.	(2) Other rules are such that their general observance can only be shewn to be useful, as means to the preservation of	
	society, under more or less temporary conditions: if any of	
	these are to be proved useful in all societies, this can only	
	be done by shewing their causal relation to things good or	
	evil in themselves, which are not generally recognised to	
	be such.	158
97.	It is plain that rules of class (1) may also be justified by the	100
	existence of such temporary conditions as justify those of	
	class (2); and among such temporary conditions must be	
	reckoned the so-called sanctions	159
9 8.	In this way, then, it may be possible to prove the general	
	utility, for the present, of those actions, which in our society	

SECT.		PAGE
	are both generally recognised as duties and generally prac-	
	tised; but it seems very doubtful whether a conclusive case	
	can be established for any proposed change in social custom,	
	without an independent investigation of what things are	
	good or bad in themselves	159
99.	And (d) if we consider the distinct question of how a single	
	individual should decide to act (a) in cases where the general	
	utility of the action in question is certain, (β) in other cases:	
	there seems reason for thinking that, with regard to (a), where the generally useful rule is also generally observed,	
	he should always conform to it; but these reasons are not	
	conclusive, if either the general observance or the general	
	utility is wanting:	162
100.	and that (β) in all other cases, rules of action should not be	104
	followed at all, but the individual should consider what	
	positive goods, he, in his particular circumstances, seems	
	likely to be able to effect, and what evils to avoid	164
101.	(4) It follows further that the distinction denoted by the	
	terms 'duty' and 'expediency' is not primarily ethical:	
	when we ask 'Is this really expedient?' we are asking pre-	
	cisely the same question as when we ask 'Is this my duty?,'	
	viz. 'Is this a means to the best possible?.' 'Duties' are	
	mainly distinguished by the non-ethical marks (1) that many	
	people are often tempted to avoid them, (2) that their most	
	prominent effects are on others than the agent, (3) that they	
	excite the moral sentiments: so far as they are distinguished by an ethical peculiarity, this is not that they are peculiarly	
	useful to perform, but that they are peculiarly useful to	
	sanction.	167
102.	The distinction between 'duty' and 'interest' is also, in the	101
	main, the same non-ethical distinction: but the term	
	'interested' does also refer to a distinct ethical predicate-	
	that an action is to 'my interest' asserts only that it will	
	have the best possible effects of one particular kind, not that	
	its total effects will be the best possible	170
103.	(5). We may further see that 'virtues' are not to be defined	
	as dispositions that are good in themselves: they are not	
	necessarily more than dispositions to perform actions gener-	
	ally good as means, and of these, for the most part, only those classed as 'duties' in accordance with section (4).	
	It follows that to decide whether a disposition is or is not	
	'virtuous' involves the difficult causal investigation dis-	
	cussed in section (3); and that what is a virtue in one state	
	of society may not be so in another.	171

SECT.		PAGE
104.	It follows also that we have no reason to presume, as has commonly been done, that the exercise of virtue in the performance of 'duties' is ever good in itself—far less, that it is the sole good:	178
105.	and, if we consider the intrinsic value of such exercise, it will appear (1) that, in most cases, it has no value, and (2) that even the cases, where it has some value, are far from constituting the sole good. The truth of the latter proposition is generally inconsistently implied, even by those who deny it;	174
106.	but in order fairly to decide upon the intrinsic value of virtue, we must distinguish three different kinds of disposition, each of which is commonly so called and has been maintained to be the only kind deserving the name. Thus (a) the mere unconscious 'habit' of performing duties, which is the commonest type, has no intrinsic value whatsoever; Christian moralists are right in implying that mere 'external rightness' has no intrinsic value, though they are wrong in saying that it is therefore not 'virtuous,' since this implies that it has no value even as a means:	100
107.	(b) where virtue consists in a disposition to have, and be moved by, a sentiment of love towards really good consequences of an action and of hatred towards really evil ones, it has some intrinsic value, but its value may vary greatly in degree:	175 177
108.	finally (c) where virtue consists in 'conscientiousness,' i.e. the disposition not to act, in certain cases, until we believe and feel that our action is right, it seems to have some intrinsic value: the value of this feeling has been peculiarly emphasized by Christian Ethics, but it certainly is not, as Kant would lead us to think, either the sole thing of value, or	150
109.	always good even as a means	178 180
	CHAPTER VI.	
	THE IDEAL.	
110.	By an 'ideal' state of things may be meant either (1) the Summum Bonum or absolutely best, or (2) the best which the laws of nature allow to exist in this world, or (3) anything greatly good in itself: this chapter will be principally occupied with what is ideal in sense (3)—with answering the	100
	fundamental question of Ethics;	183

SECT.		PAGE
111.	but a correct answer to this question is an essential step towards a correct view as to what is 'ideal' in senses (1)	184
112.	and (2)	104
	have if they existed absolutely by themselves;	187
113.	and, if we use this method, it is obvious that personal affection and aesthetic enjoyments include by far the greatest goods	100
114.	with which we are acquainted	188
114,	(1) that there is always essential to these some one of a great variety of different emotions, though these emotions may	
	have little value by themselves:	189
115.	and (2) that a cognition of really beautiful qualities is equally essential, and has equally little value by itself	190
116.	But (3) granted that the appropriate combination of these two	200
	elements is always a considerable good and may be a very	
	great one, we may ask whether, where there is added to this	
	a true belief in the existence of the object of the cognition, the whole thus formed is not much more valuable still.	192
117.	I think that this question should be answered in the affirma-	192
	tive; but in order to ensure that this judgment is correct,	
	we must carefully distinguish it	194
118.	from the two judgments (a) that knowledge is valuable as a	
	means, (b) that, where the object of the cognition is itself a good thing, its existence, of course, adds to the value of the	
	whole state of things:	195
119.	if, however, we attempt to avoid being biassed by these two	_
	facts, it still seems that mere true belief may be a condition essential to great value.	197
120.	We thus get a third essential constituent of many great goods;	101
	and in this way we are able to justify (1) the attribution of	
	value to knowledge, over and above its value as a means, and	
	(2) the intrinsic superiority of the proper appreciation of a	
	real object over the appreciation of an equally valuable	
	object of mere imagination: emotions directed towards real objects may thus, even if the object be inferior, claim	
	equality with the highest imaginative pleasures	198
121.	Finally (4) with regard to the objects of the cognition which is	
	essential to these good wholes, it is the business of Aesthetics to analyse their nature: it need only be here remarked	
	(1) that, by calling them 'beautiful,' we mean that they have	
	this relation to a good whole; and (2) that they are, for the	
	most part, themselves complex wholes, such that the ad-	

SECT.		PAGE
	miring contemplation of the whole greatly exceeds in value	
	the sum of the values of the admiring contemplation of the	
	parts	200
122.	With regard to II. Personal Affection, the object is here not	
	merely beautiful but also good in itself; it appears, however,	
	that the appreciation of what is thus good in itself, viz. the	
	mental qualities of a person, is certainly, by itself, not so	
	great a good as the whole formed by the combination with	
	it of an appreciation of corporeal beauty; it is doubtful	
	whether it is even so great a good as the mere appreciation	
	of corporeal beauty; but it is certain that the combination	
	of both is a far greater good than either singly	203
123.	It follows from what has been said that we have every reason	
	to suppose that a cognition of material qualities, and even	`
	their existence, is an essential constituent of the Ideal or	
	Summum Bonum: there is only a bare possibility that they	
	are not included in it.	205
104		200
124.	It remains to consider positive evils and mixed goods. I. Evils	*
105	may be divided into three classes, namely	2 07
125.	(1) evils which consist in the love, or admiration, or enjoy-	
	ment of what is evil or ugly	2 08
126.	(2) evils which consist in the hatred or contempt of what is	
	good or beautiful	211
127.	and (3) the consciousness of intense pain: this appears to be	
	the only thing, either greatly good or greatly evil, which does	
	not involve both a cognition and an emotion directed towards	
	its object; and hence it is not analogous to pleasure in	
	respect of its intrinsic value, while it also seems not to add to	
	the vileness of a whole, as a whole, in which it is combined	
	with another bad thing, whereas pleasure does add to the	
	goodness of a whole, in which it is combined with another	
	good thing;	212
128.	but pleasure and pain are completely analogous in this, that	212
120.	pleasure by no means always increases, and pain by no	
	means always decreases, the total value of a whole in which	
100	it is included: the converse is often true	213
129.	In order to consider II. Mixed Goods, we must first distinguish	
	between (1) the value of a whole as a whole, and (2) its value	
	on the whole or total value: (1)=the difference between (2)	
	and the sum of the values of the parts. In view of this dis-	
	tinction, it then appears:	214
130.	(1) That the mere combination of two or more evils is never	
	positively good on the whole, although it may certainly have	
	great intrinsic value as a whole;	216

SECT.		PAGE
131.	but (2) That a whole which includes a cognition of something evil or ugly may yet be a great positive good on the whole: most virtues, which have any intrinsic value whatever, seem to be of this kind, e.g. (a) courage and compassion, and (b) moral goodness; all these are instances of the hatred or	
	contempt of what is evil or ugly;	216
132.	but there seems no reason to think that, where the evil object exists, the total state of things is ever positively good on the whole, although the existence of the evil may add to its value as a whole.	219
133.	Hence (1) no actually existing evil is necessary to the Ideal, (2) the contemplation of imaginary evils is necessary to it, and (3) where evils already exist, the existence of mixed virtues has a value independent both of its consequences and of the value which it has in common with the proper	
	appreciation of imaginary evils	22 0
134.	Concluding remarks	222
135.	Summary of chapter.	224