CONTENTS

Translator's Preface	ix
Foreword by John Wild	xii
A Philosophy of the Ambiguous by Alphonse De Waelhens . x	viii
Introduction	3
I. Reflex Behavior	7
Introduction	7
The Classical Conception of the Reflex and Its Aux-	
iliary Hypotheses The "stimulus" • The place of the excitation • The reflex circuit: chemical, secretory and vegetative conditions of the reflex—cerebral and cerebellar conditions; the notions of inhibition and control, of coordination and integration; a hierarchical conception of the nervous system—dependence of the reflex with regard to simultaneous reactions—dependence with regard to preceding reactions: irradiation, reflex reversal, Weber's law and the notion of threshold • The reaction • Resumé: the problem of order; anatomical order and physiological order	10
The Interpretation of the Reflex in Gestalt Theory The ocular fixation reflex; the relations of the excitations with each other and with the reaction • Consequences • Verification of these consequences: functional reorganizations and substitutions particularly in hemianopsia • The biological signification of the reflex	33
Conclusion The category of "form" • Is it superfluous and, in a sufficiently developed physiology, is nerve functioning reducible to an intersecting of relations of the physical type? • Form and finality • Order as a descriptive category	46

II. Higher Forms of Behavior	52
Pavlov's Reflexology and Its Postulates It presupposes a description of behavior • Physico-chemical analysis and the analysis of behavior in physiology	52
The "Central Sector" of Behavior and the Problem of Localizations Generally accepted results in the problem of localizations: the analysis of sickness, disorders of structure—global functioning and mosaic functioning—mixed conception of localizations and functional parallelism • Interpretation of these results: is the notion of coordination sufficient to account for them?—coordination in spatial perception and the "disparity of images"—coordination in chromatic perception; the "chromatic level"—coordination in the physiology of language—equivocity of the notion of coordination • Conclusion: against empiricism and intellectualism in physiology—form in central phenomena—but what is a form?	60
The Structures of Behavior. Learning cannot be interpreted as an association of mutually external nerve events. Description of the structures of behavior: 1) instinct and the syncretic forms—2) the "amovable forms": the signal; spatial and temporal relations; mechanical and static relations—3) the symbolic forms	93
Conclusion	124
III. The Physical Order; The Vital Order; The Human Order	129
Introduction	129
Structure in Physics	137
Vital Structures The originality of vital forms with respect to physical systems—the organism and its milieu as the terms of a new dialectic • The organism as "idea" • The unity of	145

Contents	vii

signification, in the organism, beyond the mechanist-vitalist antinomy	
The Human Order The life of consciousness—the relation of consciousness and action remains external in contemporary thinkers: the consequences concerning the theory of perception—the characteristics of nascent perception: it is attached to human intentions rather than to objects and it experiences realities rather than knowing truths—the consequences concerning the structure of consciousness: several kinds of intentions; the consciousness of reality • Properly human consciousness • Against causal thinking in psychology: interpretation of the Freudian system in terms of structure • The "mental" and the mind are not substances but dialectics or forms of unity—how to go beyond the alternative of "mentalism" and "materialism"—the mental as structure of behavior	160
Conclusion	184
IV. The Relations of the Soul and the Body and	
the Problem of Perceptual Consciousness	185
The Classical Solutions	185
Is There Not a Truth of Naturalism?	201
Conclusion	221
consciousness	
Notes	225
Studies Cited in This Work	250
Index of Authors Cited	255