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# Mind and Body

A Criticism of Psychophysical  
Parallelism

Hans Driesch



*Routledge Revivals*

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**MIND AND BODY**



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A CRITICISM OF  
PSYCHOPHYSICAL PARALLELISM

BY

HANS DRIESCH

AUTHORIZED TRANSLATION  
WITH A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE AUTHOR  
BY

THEODORE BESTERMAN



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# **MIND AND BODY**

**OTHER WORKS BY HANS DRIESCH IN ENGLISH**

**THE SCIENCE AND PHILOSOPHY OF THE ORGANISM.**  
(Black. 2 vols.)

**THE PROBLEM OF INDIVIDUALITY.** (Macmillan.)

**THE HISTORY AND THEORY OF VITALISM.** (Macmillan.)

**THE CRISIS IN PSYCHOLOGY.** (Oxford University Press.)

**THE POSSIBILITY OF METAPHYSICS.** (Faith Press.)

*For full list of works see Bibliography at end*

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OTHER WORKS BY THEODORE BESTERMAN

CRYSTAL-GAZING: A Study of the History, Distribution,  
Theory and Practice of Scrying. (Rider.)

THE DIVINING-ROD: An Experimental and Psychological  
Investigation. With Sir WILLIAM BARRETT, F.R.S.  
(Methuen.)

THE MYSTIC ROSE: A Study of Primitive Marriage and  
of Primitive Thought in its Bearing on Marriage. By  
ERNEST CRAWLEY. Revised and Enlarged Edition  
by THEODORE BESTERMAN. (Methuen. 2 vols.)

## TRANSLATOR'S NOTE

**A**S a glance at the Bibliography at the end of this volume will show, Dr Driesch's friendship with the English-speaking countries is of long standing. Over thirty years ago (see No. 45) he was specially reporting English research work in the *Archiv für Entwicklungsmechanik der Organismen*; since then he has delivered many lectures in Great Britain and the United States, including his famous Gifford Lectures for 1907-1908 on *The Science and Philosophy of the Organism*; and last year he was elected President of the Society for Psychological Research,<sup>1</sup> the first German in that distinguished succession.

This long friendship should earn a particularly warm welcome for a translation of one of Dr Driesch's best-known and most valuable works. The text is substantially that

<sup>1</sup> Dr Driesch has since been re-elected as President for the present year.

of the third German edition ; but Dr Driesch has revised my translation and added a few passages, so that the present may in effect be regarded as a new edition. I am also indebted to Dr Driesch for checking the Bibliography and for sending me particulars of a few items overlooked by me.

As is well known, it is not always easy to get an exact English equivalent for German psychological terms. In the present translation, the greatest difficulty has been caused by Dr Driesch's constant use of "bewusst-haben" and in various tenses. He desires to convey by this term the act of "consciously having something"; but as this phrase is rather cumbersome when constantly used, the publishers have thought it preferable that I should use a variety of periphrases to get the same emphasis in English. In general, technical terms of psychology and philosophy have been as far as possible avoided.

TH. B.

LONDON

*6th June 1927*

## PREFACE TO THE ENGLISH EDITION

**T**HIS little book is not a text-book of psychology. It is exclusively concerned with one particular psychological problem, a problem, however, that stands at the very centre of psychology. The relations between mind and body are analysed; that is to say, the following three problems are successively raised: What is mind? What is the body? What are the relations between mind *and* body? But it is only the third problem which is extensively dealt with; the first two are only briefly defined.

I am of opinion that normal psychology is fully sufficient to decide this third question refute so-called parallelism, and establish the theory of interaction. And for this very reason I have left out all 'abnormal' phenomena, though well aware that a good deal more in favour of my results might have been gained from them. If the chief results may

already be achieved along normal lines, so much the better. For in this case those who still have a hesitating or even a negative attitude towards abnormal phenomena and who might become suspicious on finding them mentioned, may be forced to accept my conclusions without hesitation when they find themselves moving upon well-established 'official' ground.

My personal conviction is that abnormal psychology, and psychical research in particular, is the most important part of all psychology. There will, as I hope, be a good many readers who know this. To them there may present themselves a great number of arguments in favour of the mind or soul as an independent essence, in addition to those brought out in this very 'normal' little book—and they may be assured of my agreement.

HANS DRIESCH

MADISON, WIS.

*6th November 1926*

## PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

THE object of this book is to examine along logical lines the possibility of the theory of psychophysical parallelism. In other words, it proposes to discover whether or not the ordered and 'logical' structure of the psychical and the physical states will permit this theory to be adopted. The examination will be complete in the sense that during its course there will be mentioned all the arguments and counter-arguments which have occurred to others and to myself ; but only those will be closely examined which are new or which are very significant. Such supplementary information as the reader may require he can find in the substantial and well-known work by Ludwig Busse, *Geist und Körper, Seele und Leib* (Leipzig, 1903 [2nd edition, Leipzig, 1913]), and in R. Eisler's *Leib und Seele* (1906), B. Erdmann's *Wissenschaftlichen Hypothesen über*

*Leib und Seele* (Cologne, 1908), and Arnold Klein's *Die modernen Theorien über das allgemeine Verhältnis von Leib und Seele* (Breslau, 1906); the works of E. Becher, W. McDougall, and others are referred to in the text.

In this book the parallelistic theory will be refuted, as I believe, on very good grounds. What follows from such a refutation, and, in particular, from psychophysical 'interaction,' is beyond the scope of our investigation. The reader who seeks further enlightenment in this connection may be directed to the second volume of my *The Science and Philosophy of the Organism* (London, 1908 [2nd German edition, *Philosophie des Organischen*, Leipzig, 1921]), for at this point the fundamental problem of psychophysics merges into that of biology.

Part V of this book, which introduces a new, and to my mind a decisive, conception into the discussion of the psychophysical problem, was originally intended to be delivered in London before the International Congress of Philosophy in 1915. In its outlines it was incorporated into an address on the whole psychophysical problem which the

Senkenbergsche Gesellschaft in Frankfort invited me to give less than a year later.

The psychophysical problem is one of the most involved and difficult of all problems. Its discussion requires a grounding in logic, in psychology, in natural science, and, above all, in 'phenomenology.' For all that, I hope that I have discussed the subject in a manner which will enable every educated reader to follow the arguments; and I think that every educated reader, especially in these times, should take an interest in questions which at all times form an essential part of the problem of man, nay, which perhaps form the heart of that problem.

HANS DRIESCH

HEIDELBERG

*7th March 1916*



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## PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

**T**O my great pleasure a new edition of this book has become necessary some four years after its publication. Apart from a few additions and corrections the contents of the second edition are the same as those of the main body of the first ; on the other hand, the form of the last third of the original edition has been substantially transformed. The Appendix of the first edition has been incorporated into the text, while the divisions of the text itself have been partially re-arranged.

In its new form the book is not merely a critique supplemented by a few positive additions ; the first, critical part, which, as has been indicated, comprised the whole text of the first edition, is now followed by a systematically designed second part. As the size of the book was not to be materially increased, I forbore to shape this second part

into a comprehensive system of psychology. But the book has now become systematically constructive in regard to the problem of body and mind, and I believe that this marks a substantial improvement on the merely incidentally positive notes of the first edition.

HANS DRIESCH

COLOGNE

*29th May 1920*