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Ottawa, Sept. 20, 1912

PSYCHOLOGY AND CIVIL SERVICE.

The human race has performed prodigious feats in its endeavour to solve the problems of nature and to light up the dark places of the earth. If failure has been made in any one respect more than another it may fairly be stated that such peculiar shortcoming is in regard to the study of the human mind. "The dark continent of motive and desire has never been explored." So far are we from knowing each other's minds that we do not even know our own. Psychology may scarcely be termed a science. It is not much more than an experiment. How helpful it would be if more marked progress could be made in the study of the dim and dark recesses of the human mind. Man is preternaturally a wanderer from the fold. A wild animal still, as Mr. Balfour says, the human race deceives and preys upon itself. In our present state of society, deter-

rents are a necessary stipulation to good conduct. This will be so until the age of altruism, known as the millenium arrives. Psychologists may confer a great boon upon the administration of the Civil Service as also in respect to other walks of life as witness the following.

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In the course of time Psychologists will revise and renovate the relations between man and man by a very simple expedient. An instrument will be invented which by means of a connecting wire will form a contact between the minds of two men or of any number of men. In the early stages of this endeavour to penetrate the mazes of the mind, it may be found necessary to bore holes through the skulls of all engaged in the investigation. The value of this invention in arriving at and making public the animating motives of the human mind, will appear. Picture our legislative bodies. The Speaker takes the chair; an honourable member essays to address the house, and the phychic wires are immediately set, connecting the animating motive power of the orator with the perceptive auricles of the audience and of the public. How pure and undefiled would be the utterances of the honourable member. Applied to the Civil Service, there would be a revolution. We would all know the motives and purposes for certain promotions; and also the reason why certain other promotions are not made. All anomolies and causes for complaint would rapidly disappear; and generally speaking the human race would be uplifted by the removal of that barrier to progress,—the fallibility of human evidence.

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The foregoing thoughts are suggested by reason of a report published on another page of this issue under the same caption as that under which this present article is written, viz., "Psychology and Civil Service." We commend this interesting