

The Human Welfare Group at New Haven


A SERIES OF INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS OF A
NEW EDUCATIONAL PROJECT

V.

PSYCHOLOGY AND THE HUMAN WELFARE GROUP

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HE Human Welfare Group materializes in unique fashion a vision that came to some of us after the War, of coördinating the available fragments of science relevant to pressing social problems, of enlisting the active coöperation of all scientists who could contribute significant data, and of utilizing the latent, wide spread enthusiasm for social service that the War disclosed. We then hoped that such an institution might become a center for a new humanitarianism, serving to counterbalance the agencies tending towards social disintegration and extreme individualism.

Possibly this was going too far, but the dream and hope reinforce our loyalty to the Institute of Human Relations and the Human Welfare Group. More and better agencies than we dreamed of have come into being. Great coördinating organizations of national and international scope exist for the promotion of science; but we have scarcely begun to learn the principles or to realize the possibilities of coöperative research in response to social needs, and we have no means of estimating the limits of its achievements.