

INTRODUCTION TO CANADIAN EDITION.

desires to co-ordinate all his knowledge into a mutually supporting system, thus making his experience a fruitful starting-point for the acquisition and "assimilation" of further knowledge. It helps him to understand the educational significance and value of different studies, and to adopt methods suitable to the subject taught, and adapted to the mental conditions of his pupils. It leads him to acquire an absorbing and intelligent interest in his pupils and in everything that concerns their physical, mental, and moral well-being. It aids him in avoiding many mistakes on his own part. It enables him to assist his pupils in guarding against many dangers that beset them. It leads to at least the beginning of an acquaintance with many of the highest and most renowned exponents of the intellectual life of the race.

Although the history of the science of Psychology still remains unwritten, it has nevertheless had a noteworthy growth, extending over many centuries, and gathering up the wisdom of many of the ablest thinkers of every age. Beginning, as every science has done, in the vague generalizations of ordinary experience recorded in language and literature, passing on to more explicit classifications, definitions, and explanations of a descriptive kind, it has at last become exact, definite, experimental and scientific, at least in aim and method, if not in full accomplishment.