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NEW SCHOOL FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH

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TO THE MEMORY OF

ALEXANDER GOLDENWEISER

A GENTLEMAN AND A SCHOLAR

Vox audita perit, litera scripta manet

APROPOS OF PROOF-READING

“Have you a pair of eyes, Mr. Weller?”

“Yes, I have a pair of eyes,” replied Sam, “and that’s just it. If they wos a pair o’ patent double million magnifyin’ gas microscopes of hextra power, p’raps I might be able to see through a flight o’ stairs and a deal door; but bein’ only eyes, you see, my wision’s limited.”

—Dickens’ *Pickwick Papers*

PREFACE

I

This book is the outgrowth of long-continued interest in the history of social and sociological thought. The more general aspects of this interest received generous treatment in *Social Thought from Lore to Science*, published by two of the editors in 1938. At several points in Volume II of this treatise, attention was called to the increasing trend toward diversification of interest and specialization of activity in the field of social theory in general and of sociological theory in particular. Note was also made of the fact that the volumes in question were necessarily confined to a survey of broad scope that unavoidably slights details, particularly with regard to recent developments. This was especially true of the treatment given the American manifestations; had the chapter "Sociology in the United States" been handled in other than cursory fashion, the space devoted to other countries would have been drastically reduced.

The decision was made, therefore, to defer the more thorough treatment above noted until the present volume could be completed. Further, it early became apparent that no two men, however industrious, could hope to keep abreast of all the fields and the ever-mounting literature. Co-operative collaboration proved indispensable. The present editors consequently have drawn upon the assistance of the seventeen specialists whose names are listed in the table of contents. Nothing short of this would provide the necessary surveys and appraisals of the diversified research and formulations which constitute contemporary social theory.

With the exception of a specialized treatment of systematic sociology, social reform, and a few other types of endeavor not directly relevant to the aim of the present volume, an effort has been made to canvass all salient aspects of contemporary social thinking and to assess their significance for the current social scene and for the probable development of social theory in the generation which lies ahead. It is hoped and believed that any adequately prepared person who reads this book will obtain a clear and comprehensive idea of what is going on today and will also secure hints as to what may be expected in the near future. This result, if achieved, is of more than merely academic importance; it may help us to bridge the gulf between contemporary social action and our social thought and institutions—an achievement which the editors hold to be the supreme task of the social sciences.

In spite of the fact that nineteen persons (two of the editors are here included) have contributed the chapters which make up this volume, we have reason to believe that the degree of integration effected has been much higher than is the case with many symposia. Rather than a random collection of disjointed essays, the reader is here presented with a logically organized and well-unified treatment which should constitute the natural conclusion to courses in the history of social and sociological thought. Such courses have all too often ended about where this volume begins, with the unfortunate result that current trends are either ignored or misunderstood. There is no longer any need for such omission or incompleteness. This book will enable teachers and students to round out their courses properly and end up in comprehensive contact with current literature, more especially as selected bibliographies are included within or at the end of every chapter, as well as in a comprehensive Bibliographical Appendix. The book should also prove useful as the basic manual in courses which are given over to a detailed study of the interrelationships of the social sciences in our own day, as well as in those of more narrowly sociological scope.

An even greater service which the book should render, however, was suggested to us by our former colleague, Professor Frank H. Hankins of Smith College. He once expressed the opinion that such a conspectus and evaluation as this volume provides ought to constitute the ideal classroom textbook for the advanced courses in the principles of sociology offered to upperclassmen and graduate students. The more the editors reflect on this suggestion, the more they are convinced of its soundness—making due allowance, of course, for the fact that “every shoemaker thinks there is nothing like leather.” It seems logical that this volume should supplant or at least complement the handbooks now being used in courses being devoted to general sociology, i. e., above and beyond the usual introductory course offered to freshmen and sophomores. Little is to be gained by mere repetition of the same general approach and subject-matter, rendered slightly more difficult through greater abstraction, systematization, and completeness.

Acquaintance with the contents of this volume will immunize students against the infectious and often dubious generalizations now made without adequate theoretical orientation, and will bring them directly into contact with what is going on in the whole range of relevant contemporary thought. By the time this treatise has been digested, the students will know what sociology is today, what its interrelations with the other social sciences are, and what it may become tomorrow. Moreover, they will begin to feel at home in the many fields encompassed by sociology, and will have become acquainted with the various ways in which social data may be assembled, analyzed, collated, and appraised. As we have said, they will have acquired a fairly good understanding of what has been accomplished

by sociologists down to the present time, will have an adequate notion of the problems which lie ahead, and will be conversant with the more important literature of contemporary sociology and its applied fields of intellectual endeavor. Surely this is the minimum of equipment and experience which should be demanded of mature students of sociology, and it is something which is rarely provided today by the usual run of advanced courses.

The foregoing statements are not intended as special pleas for the invincibility or immortality of the present volume. The editors have conscientiously endeavored to make it the best extant manual for advanced sociology courses and have the conviction, right or wrong, that it is as yet the only work of its kind in English. Others, of course, may differ, and it is certainly possible that another and better survey may be completed in the near future. When this comes about, this book will lose its place as what we now feel it to be; namely, the most serviceable guide to advanced studies in the sociological field. In the meantime, it is not out of order to extend an invitation to examine and experiment with the present volume in the manner just suggested.

II

Our collaborators have been chosen with great care, and we wish to thank them for the gratifying manner in which our confidence, as manifested in the initial selection, has been repaid. Each writer, realizing that he bears the final responsibility for his presentation of his topic, has done the best that in him lies; no editors could ask more. The present editors, however, are themselves responsible for the choice of collaborators,¹ allocation of topics, distribution of space, and decisions affecting format, footnoting, indexing, and the like. No hard-and-fast rules of style were laid down, but it is believed that a reasonable uniformity of presentation has been achieved.

Special attention should be called to two persons. Edward Alsworth Ross, now the Nestor of American sociology, has given the entire manuscript careful scrutiny and has been directly responsible for numerous improvements. As editor of the series in which this volume appears, his sustained interest and critical judgment have often carried us over difficult spots. Alexander Goldenweiser, to whom the book is dedicated, wrote three chapters of great merit, but died before his contributions had advanced beyond the stage of page proof. In our estimation the most scholarly and gifted, from the standpoint of analytical ability, of all contem-

¹ It should be noted, however, that Harry Elmer Barnes conceived the plan of this symposium, selected Howard and Frances Bennett Becker as co-editors, and secured the services of the greater number of the "symposiasts."

porary American ethnologists, we hope that his swan-song, in the pages now awaiting the reader, will make the profound impression that its distinguished qualities deserve.

Notice should be taken of the fact that we have provided a Bibliographical Appendix. Here a number of topics not dealt with in separate chapters (because of space limits) are listed and selected references furnished. We cannot, as fallible mortals, assert that we have always made the wisest possible choice of topics for chapter exposition, but we can justifiably claim that this Bibliographical Appendix does a good deal to compensate for any errors in judgment.

In addition to the collaborators *per se*, a number of friends, colleagues, and students should be mentioned as having provided help and counsel. Professors Read Bain, Wendell Bennett, Helen Clarke, J. L. Gillin, Paul R. Farnsworth, David Fulcomer, E. T. Hiller, W. W. Howells, Thomas C. McCormick, Selig Perlman, Elmer Sevringhaus, and Kimball Young have given much useful comment. H. Otto Dahlke, Allan Eister, Regina Feiner, William Kolb, Virgil Long, Don Martindale, C. Wright Mills, Robert C. Schmid, Rockwell Smith, Bonita and Preston Valien, and Milton Yinger have done critical reading or special research that have augmented the accuracy and usefulness of the book. Other assistance has come from Mildred Coleman, Florence Gurholt, Fern McCoard, Virginia Parker, and Melvin Tumin; their cheerful and efficient services have lightened the editors' burden.

We also wish to extend thanks to the staff of the D. Appleton-Century Company for considerate treatment and competent supervision of publishing details; here we should mention in particular Dana H. Ferrin, F. S. Pease, and Marjorie Marsh.

To the editorial boards of the *American Sociological Review* and the *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, we extend our thanks for permission to utilize, in revised and expanded form, articles by Howard Becker and Talcott Parsons. The following publishing houses have given permission for quotation from books issued under their imprint, and we hereby express our appreciation:

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The name index was in large measure the responsibility of Elizabeth Fairchild Becker, who hereby makes her initial bow on the stage of books; the subject index was prepared by two of the editors.

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Part I

THE SOCIOLOGICAL
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