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NOTES AND NEWS

LETTER FROM PROFESSOR HEIDEL

TO THE EDITORS OF THE JOURNAL OF PHILOSOPHY, PSYCHOLOGY, AND SCIENTIFIC METHODS:

In my review of Cornford's "From Religion to Philosophy," published in this JOURNAL (Volume X., page 103), I said (p. 106) that Professor John Burnet had in a private communication virtually retracted the statements regarding φύσις made in his "Early Greek Philosophy" (p. 12 sq.). I find that Professor Burnet did not so intend his remarks, and I therefore cheerfully withdraw my comment. At his suggestion I here set down the text of the communication to which I alluded. It is dated January 30, 1910, and refers to my *Περὶ Φύσεως*:

'I have to thank you for sending me your paper. I think that there is probably less difference between us than you seem to suppose. I was concerned chiefly to call attention to what appeared to me at the time to be a generally neglected view of the meaning of the term. You fully admit that it has this meaning among others. It is thus a matter of degree. For reasons which I can hardly go into now, you seem to me to have inclined the scale too far in one direction, as I very possibly have done in another. You may be sure that what you say will be fully and respectfully dealt with the next time an opportunity offers. One thing is absolutely certain, and that is that you are right in making so much of the Hippokratean uses of the word, and that you have done a most valuable piece of work in bringing so much material together.'

Since the point at issue is whether Professor Burnet intended to retract his statements in question and I now know that he did not, I refrain from further comment at this time. If he ever discusses φύσις again, as I hope he will, there may be occasion to reopen the debate regarding the meaning and implications of the term.

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