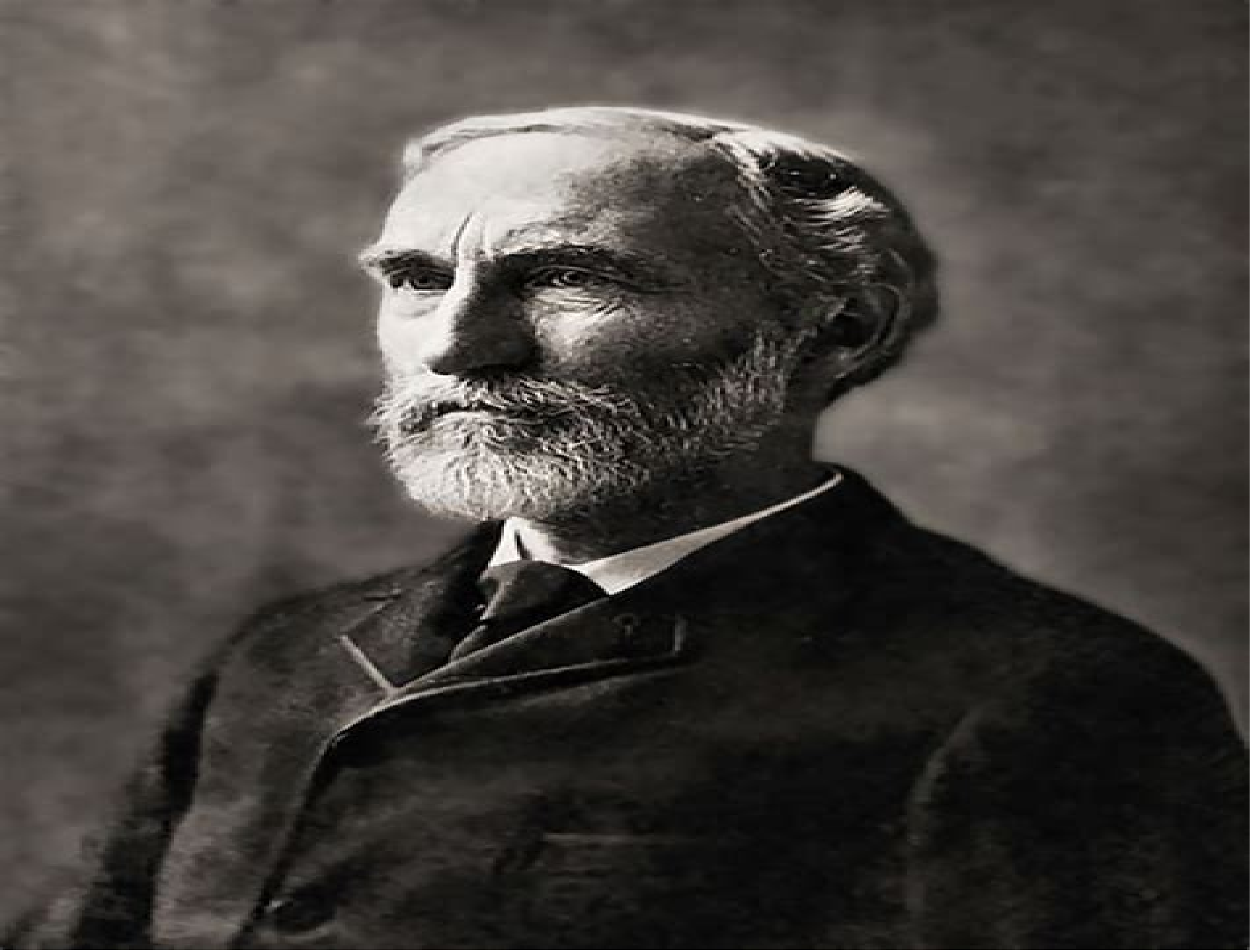




Pierre Duhem

Yemima Ben-Menahem



Pierre Duhem:

Essays in the History and Philosophy of Science Pierre Duhem, Pierre Maurice Marie Duhem, 1996-01-01 Here for the first time in English are the philosophical essays including the first statement of the Duhem Thesis that formed the basis for Aim and Structure of Physical Theory together with new translations of the historiographical essays presenting the equally celebrated Continuity Thesis by Pierre Duhem 1861 1916 a founding figure of the history and philosophy of science Prefaced by an introduction on Duhem's intellectual development and continuing significance here as well are important subsequent essays in which Duhem elaborated key concepts and critiqued such contemporaries as Henri Poincaré and Ernst Mach Together these works offer a lively picture of the state of science at the turn of the century while addressing methodological issues that remain at the center of debate today **BOOK JACKET** Title Summary field provided by Blackwell North America Inc All Rights Reserved

Pierre Duhem R. Niall D. Martin, 1991 More than any other major twentieth century writer Pierre Duhem has been the victim of ill informed guesswork For instance many references to Duhem stress the importance of his Catholic faith but nearly all of them draw the obvious and entirely erroneous conclusions about the role of Catholicism in Duhem's thinking This book pays particular attention to the political and intellectual context of French Catholicism wracked as it was by the tensions of Dreyfus affair and the so called modernist crisis Duhem took his inspiration not from the papally sponsored revival of the thought of St Thomas Aquinas but from Pascal a fact that aroused suspicions of skepticism in the minds of conservative Catholics The tensions between Duhem's work and authoritarian Catholic positions became more explicit as his historical work unfolded Most famous for his denial of the possibility of a crucial experiment which could unambiguously decide between contending scientific theories Duhem has often been interpreted as a mere instrumentalist or conventionalist denying the meaningfulness of a reality behind the theory Dr Martin shows that Duhem was a Pascalian who argued for both logic and intuition as indispensable in approaching the truth Duhem argues that physics could not legitimately be used to attack Christianity but he held that physics was equally useless for the defense of Christianity a position which made him unpopular with many Catholics

Pierre Duhem. [With a Portrait.], 1932 *Uneasy Genius: The Life And Work Of Pierre Duhem* St.L. Jaki, 2012-12-06 A hundred years have now gone by since in the midsummer of 1882 Pierre Duhem a graduate of College Stanislas completed with brilliant success his entrance exams to the Ecole Normale Supérieure and embarked on his career as a theoretical physicist His father a textile salesman hoped that Hierre would pursue a career in business one of the few professional fields where perhaps he would not have succeeded Not that young Duhem lacked sense for the practical He could have easily made a name for himself as an artist had he developed professionally his skill to draw portraits and landscapes His ability to make a point and his readiness to join in a debate could have earned him fame as a lawyer A potential actor was in sight when he entertained friends with mimicry That as a student of physics he entered and stayed first in his class at the Ecole Normale did not thwart his talents for the life sciences No less

a biologist than Pasteur tried to obtain Duhem for assistant His command of Greek and Latin would have secured him a career as a classicist He was a Frenchman not to be met too often whose rightful admiration for and mastery of his native tongue did not prove a barrier to the major modern languages As one who taught himself the complex art of medieval paleography he could easily have mastered the many auxiliary sciences needed by a consummate historian The Aim and Structure of Physical Theory Pierre Maurice Marie Duhem, 2021-08-10 This classic work in the philosophy of physical science is an incisive and readable account of the scientific method Pierre Duhem was one of the great figures in French science a devoted teacher and a distinguished scholar of the history and philosophy of science This book represents his most mature thought on a wide range of topics **The Methodology of Pierre Duhem** Armand Lowinger, 1941 **Commentary on the Principles of Thermodynamics by Pierre Duhem** Paul Needham, 2011-05-30 Pierre Duhem 1861 1916 held the chair of theoretical physics at Bordeaux from 1894 to his death He established a reputation in both the history and philosophy of science as well as in science itself physics and physical chemistry Much of his work in the first two areas has been translated into English but little of his technical scientific work The present volume contains early work of Duhem s illustrating his interest in the rigorous development of physical theory for which he is famous It opens with what was the first critical discussion of Gibbs groundbreaking *On the Equilibrium of Heterogeneous Substances* 1876 8 where Duhem addressed the problem that as he put it Mathematicians regret that the principles of Thermodynamics should have been developed in general with so little precision that the same proposition can be regarded by some as a consequence and by others as a negation of these principles The other papers forming a three part series pursue this project of putting the foundations of thermodynamics on a clearer and more secure basis This book will be of interest to scholars in history and philosophy of science especially those interested in the development of physical chemistry and the work of Pierre Duhem **Pierre Duhem** , 1990 Conventionalism Yemima Ben-Menahem, 2006-04-21 The daring idea that convention human decision lies at the root both of necessary truths and much of empirical science reverberates through twentieth century philosophy constituting a revolution comparable to Kant s Copernican revolution This book provides a comprehensive study of Conventionalism Drawing a distinction between two conventionalist theses the underdetermination of science by empirical fact and the linguistic account of necessity Yemima Ben Menahem traces the evolution of both ideas to their origins in Poincar s geometric conventionalism She argues that the radical extrapolations of Poincar s ideas by later thinkers including Wittgenstein Quine and Carnap eventually led to the decline of conventionalism This book provides a fresh perspective on twentieth century philosophy Many of the major themes of contemporary philosophy emerge in this book as arising from engagement with the challenge of conventionalism **Beyond the Contingent** Kathleen A. Mulhern, 2011-06-13 In light of the contemporary struggle between science and faith Kathleen Mulhern s timely exploration of late nineteenth century neo Pascalian thought both recovers a lost perspective on the war between science and religion and offers a fruitful angle of

study for twenty first century reflection As the science vs religion rancor reached its early fury at the turn of the century many devout French Catholic intellectuals struggled with the increasingly dogmatic spirit in both the Roman Catholic Church and the scientific community The dominant ideology of scientism within the intellectual establishment of the Third Republic 1870 1940 collided with a growing authoritarianism within the Church expressed in the 1893 papal encyclical Providentissimus Physicist Pierre Duhem philosopher Maurice Blondel and priest Lucien Laberthonniere rejected the Roman Catholic Church s Thomistic methodology and sought intellectual inspiration instead in the philosophy of seventeenth century scientist mathematician philosopher and Christian apologist Blaise Pascal These neo Pascalians offered an alternative to the adversarial relationship between modern culture and orthodox Catholic faith but their ideas came to an abrupt and bitter conclusion when they ran afoul of Church authority The narrative and contribution of the neo Pascalians offers many insights and lessons that could helpfully inform the contemporary debates surrounding the dialogue between science and religion

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