PREFACE

The present thesis proposes to give a critical account of one of the most important problems of philosophy, namely, intellect and intuition. This problem has engaged the minds of the Indian thinkers as well as the western thinkers. In this thesis an attempt is made to study the concept of intellect and intuition as found in the philosophies of Bradley, Bergson and Radhakrishnan.

Bradley's work is epoch-making in the history of Anglo-Saxon idealism. He is supreme among the British Idealists of the 19th century. In him idealism reaches its culmination. He is one of the few great builders of absolutist system, and one of the boldest and most original and speculative thinkers that Britain has ever produced. The thought of French philosopher Henri Bergson is more fascinating, more suggestive and stimulating. The poet and the philosopher, the man of action and the religious mystic has given the golden touch in his various works by advocating intuition as the unique method of entering into the heart of reality. The work of S. Radhakrishnan is the most important in the development of Indian and western comparative studies. Radhakrishnan has been working creatively for greater synthesis of Indian and western values. He builds a comprehensive
metaphysical system integrating the fragments of our scientific, ethical and religious experience into the unitary vision of reality. His idealistic system can aptly be characterised as the metaphysics of integral experience.

The thesis is divided into seven chapters. The 1st chapter, outlines the historical background of intuition in western philosophy. It deals with the views regarding the use and importance of intuition right from Plato to Lossky. The 2nd chapter, gives a general idea of Indian classical view regarding significance of intuition. In the 3rd chapter, Bradley's view regarding immediate experience is discussed. It explores his views regarding the problem of metaphysics, concept of Reality and his notion about immediate experience. The 4th chapter, Presents the view of Bergson regarding intellect and intuition. It deals with Bergson's criticism of mechanical and teleological view of evolution. His views regarding Reality, duration, limitation of intellect and the unique method of intuition as a way of knowing reality are discussed. The 5th chapter presents the great contemporary Indian philosopher Radhakrishnan's view of intuition. The 6th chapter makes a comparative study of views of intellect and intuition held by Bradley, Bergson and Radhakrishnan. In the concluding chapter the importance of synoptic philosophy based on intuitive apprehension is emphasised.

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(Pramathesh Chandra Ray Choudhury)