

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 28 (1965)
Heft: [3]

Rubrik: [Impressum]

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. [Siehe Rechtliche Hinweise.](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. [Voir Informations légales.](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. [See Legal notice.](#)

Download PDF: 02.04.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

AVOIDING MISUNDERSTANDING

Every difficult situation one comes up against in his daily dealings with his fellow men is mixed, not clear. It is mixed in the causes that brought it about and it is mixed in the emotions it stirs within us. We should recognise then, that two or even more contradictory viewpoints may be true, or partially true.

"I have an open mind on that question," we often hear someone say. This usually means that he is prepared to listen to all sides of the argument before coming to a final conclusion. It means that he is prepared to change his mind if new facts or new reasons come to hand. It is useful when each side in a controversy comes to see that the other has only the normal share of human wickedness. If only each side would preface its judgements with such a phrase as "it seems to me," many a misunderstanding and conflict would be avoided. To think oneself into "the other fellow's boots" as the saying goes also has a calming effect on our mind.

"I know best and I don't care what anybody says," is the attitude of the person with a closed mind who is not prepared to alter his views in any circumstances. In reality he is narrow-minded and lacks the wisdom and desire to see the other person's point of view, and because of that he never learns. The person with the open mind on the other hand is adding to his knowledge all the time. He is free from prejudice and is not one-eyed. He welcomes the correction of errors and the establishment of the truth no matter the source from which it comes. —W.R.

"I hold myself indebted to any one from whose en'lightened understanding another ray of knowledge communicates to mine —really to inform the mind is to correct and enlarge the heart." —Junius.