

5600AD0E040

A 56 (56000DTE040) Transcription

Theory of Probability:

- (1) Not mathematical theory used by actuaries but the basis of this theory
- (2) Probabilism, Historical questions, science
- (3) Probabilities mounting to certitude

II. Probability – mean between possibility and certainty – indefinite field – more & less

Certainty – necessary implication - ??

Lux intellectualis – lumen intellectual – visio

Plato ἀνάμνησις – Augustine memoria non praeteritorum – Thomas illuminatio, basis of his metaphysical theory

Hume no evidence, i.e. no sensible evidence – Kant granted that these proceeded from intellectual evidence accepted some & rejected others – e.g. soul, God: what it is/that it is

Difference: partial data and necessary understanding to other reality

Total data to non-necessary (probable) understanding

I.e. not entirely awake from his dogmatic slumber

Possibility: there is not a necessary contradiction – i.e. intelligible, illuminable.

III. Probability:

- (1) At least possibility
- (2) Relative to our knowledge – No known reason why head rather than tail – Therefore even chance
- (3) cf. (i) Explainable – scientific hypothesis – working hypothesis (Faraday) – tavern gossip (Newman)

α impulse to understand, τὸ θαυμαστόν opposed to simple curiosity of eye  
β orders investigation – even if not right it gives inquirer a starting point or something to work for; it puts facts into order – not an undigested array

γ pernicious influence of desire for originality – childish form of parti pris  
δ more general form – esp materialists, rationalists, modernists – which is right is to be decided by philosophy – our pre-Socratic ? – individual rather than *general solution* unless revelation

γ Need of not jumping to conclusions – a probability is not a certainty – real point of Descartes' aim. Rationalist solution naïve if probabilities can converge.