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I. A Preliminary Notion

Distinguish operational structure, technique, and method.

An operational structure is a normative pattern of recurrent and related operations. There are, then, operations; the operations are distinct; each is related to the others directly or indirectly; the set of operations forms a pattern; and the pattern is recurrent and normative. It is recurrent, for operations in accord with the pattern occur, not just once, but over and over again. It is normative, for it is regarded as the right way of doing things, and other ways are ascribed to ignorance or perversity.

An operational structure may be implicit or explicit, open or closed. It is implicit when operations occur in accord with the normative pattern without any advertence to the pattern. It is explicit when ~~operations~~ advertence to the pattern is a condition for performing the operations correctly

An operational structure may be implicit or explicit. It is implicit inasmuch as the operations occur in accord with the pattern

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Method

Methods are products of reflection. Successful performance is recalled in memory. Each step in the process ~~is~~ is distinguished. Superfluous elements are eliminated. Simpler or more efficient procedures are worked out. The test of practice adds further corrections and improvements until, eventually, there is ~~is~~ determined the method, the proper way, of getting something done.

When the desired result is known in advance, as in industry, then the method may be conceived as the selection of the appropriate means to obtain an end. But such foreknowledge is not always to be had. Scientists pursue the advance of science; they do so methodically; but they cannot determine their methods by selecting means appropriate to their ends, for the ends they seek are as yet ~~is~~ unknown but they cannot have foreknowledge of future discoveries; and so their methods cannot ~~may~~ be determined

The desired result may or may not be known in advance. When it is known, as in industry, then methods are determined by arguing from the end to be achieved to the means that will achieve it. But scientists pursue the advancement of ~~knowledge~~ learning. What has not yet been discovered

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In general, a method seems to be an explicit and normative pattern of recurrent and related operations. ~~There are then~~ There are, then, distinct operations; ~~they are related~~ each is related to the others directly or ~~(indirectly)~~ indirectly; the set of relations forms a pattern; and the pattern is explicit, normative, and recurrent. It is explicit: one does not proceed ~~↓~~ methodically without being aware that one is doing so. It is normative: it is regarded as the right way of ~~doing~~ doing things, and other ways are ~~regarded as~~ ascribed to ignorance or perversity. It is recurrent: operations in accord with the pattern occur, not just once, but over and over again.

If the foregoing account applies equally to scientific methods and to the methods employed in industry, it remains that the two types differ profoundly. A scientific method is cumulative, probabilistic, open, and endless. It is cumulative: each recurrence of the method takes into account the fruits of earlier occurrences, and so each can add something new to what was already known; but the recurrence of an industrial method results only in the recurrence of the same standardized ~~prod~~ product. Further, while the widespread and sustained use of scientific method makes a succession of discoveries, ~~probable,~~ ^{probable,} still it does not make them certain; but industrialists have little interest in methods that ~~work not~~ ^{yield results not} always but only sometimes and then not with certainty but only probably. In the third place, ~~what~~ what the scientist is going to discover, is as yet ~~if~~ unknown; but the industrialist wants to know exactly what his product is going to be. Finally, the goals of industrial activity are proximate; but the goal of science, say, the complete explanation of all phenomena, is regarded as indefinitely remote.

They also are related. Spontaneously one may ~~xi~~ think of such relations as a temporal sequence. But while it is true that distinct operations hardly occur simultaneously, it would be a mistake to think of the pattern as a temporal sequence

The operations also are related, and the relations form a pattern. This pattern is not to be confused with the temporal ~~x~~ sequence in which the operations occur for, while ~~xx~~ there is always some sequence, still it is subject to variation. What is invariant in the pattern, resides in relations of presupposition and complementarity: some operations presuppose others, and they complement the operations that they presuppose. If one combines inquiry, observation, description, discovery, hypothesis, deduction, ~~x~~ experimentation, and verification, one has a contribution to the advancement of science. If one separates them to perform only one or two or three of the set, then one's work is essentially incomplete

2. The Ground of Method

From the fact of method we proceed to its ground, to the reason why it is what it is. If our account of the fact could be summary, our grasp of the ground must be full. For we do not propose to reach a method for theology by starting from the method of the natural sciences, postulating some vague analogy, and determining its nature by some haphazard process of adaptation

2. The Ground of Method

From a fact of method we proceed to its ground, to the reason why it is what it is. If our account of the fact could be summary, our grasp of the ground must be full. For it is not the method of the natural sciences but the ground of that method that is significant if one is out to determine a method for theology.

The ground of method, then, is the structure or pattern of human cognitional activity. In other words, a method is a normative open pattern of recurrent and related operations, because human knowing itself spontaneously observes an open pattern of recurrent and related operations. What a method declares and prescribes, human cognitional activity already is and does.

Decline, ie sin

double aspect: sin as falsity, false theories
sin as egoism, social tension, Marxist

Sin as falsity: a) for social good
nagualism b) not "I repent" but "I do right"
totemism adjustment of theory to practice
nature cults
sky gods
critique of gods, Plato
scepticism
fullness of time

Investiture

Anti-popes, Constance

Protestantism

Rationalism: Descartes to Kant

Naturalism: Rousseau to mod educ, dem gov by pub op

Communism: Marx Lenin Stalin (conservative 1936)

Racialism: Naz soz

Sin as egoism

progress work of dominant minority, masses uninspired
lacking initiative, intelligence, energy, risk
dominant minority looks out for self, denies or
disregards problems of others
princes
bourgeoisie
masses

Summary

a) lines of progress, of developing intellect
mechanism of progress, dominant minority
b) lines of decline, of falsifying intellect
mechanism of decline, power politics, class war

Combinations, interactions.

applied science: devel of phil, destruction of phil
devel of econ, destruct of econ
devel of state central, destruct of st

learn before

*We preach perpetual
revolution - but
not in Trotskyist
sense but in sense
of meaning and spirit etc.*

Supernatural: ultimat analysis; intell, non-int, sup int
faith, not intellectual lethargy, credulity, but poss
of reason standing up in major decline
hope, not opium, pie in heaven, but limit econ determ
charity, not disordered beneficence, opp to justice,
proper order, but antidote to injustice, obje falsity