

THE PROBLEMS OF PHILOSOPHY

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expect food when they see the person who usually feeds them. We know that all these rather crude expectations of uniformity are liable to be misleading. **The man who has fed the chicken every day throughout its life at last wrings its neck instead, showing that more refined views as to the uniformity of nature would have been useful to the chicken.**

Russell's famous chicken quip

But in spite of the misleadingness of such expectations, they nevertheless exist. The mere fact that something has happened a certain number of times causes animals and men to expect that it will happen again. Thus our instincts certainly cause us to believe that the sun will rise to-morrow, but we may be in no better a position than the chicken which unexpectedly has its neck wrung. **We have therefore to distinguish the fact that past uniformities *cause* expectations as to the future, from the question whether there is any reasonable ground for giving weight to such expectations after the question of their validity has been raised.**

Habits of mind v.

Reasonable grounds.

The problem we have to discuss is whether there is any reason for believing in what is