

PREFACE TO THE PAPERBACK EDITION



A number of insightful comments and criticisms have been put to me on the metaphysic I propose in *Dispositions*. I have made no significant alterations for this edition nor have I attempted to reply to my critics. I am happy that the book has stimulated discussion in its current form, so I leave it alone and hope that it continues to do so. I will, though, say a few words on developments since 1998.

Shortly after the book's completion, I became aware of a seemingly different characterization of dispositions to mine: the theory of physical intentionality championed by Ullin Place. I discussed and dismissed Place's theory in 'Intentionality and the Physical' (*Philosophical Quarterly*, 49 (1999)). Place died not long after, as did the other chief proponent in the theory, George Molnar. Molnar left a manuscript that became the book *Powers* (Oxford, 2003). I consider this to be the strongest statement yet of the theory. It has been put to me, however, that the functionalism I propose (Ch. 9) might be consistent with a form of physical intentionality similar to Molnar's. I leave it open whether the two accounts really are at odds.

Wolfgang Malzkorn (*Philosophical Quarterly*, 50 (2001)) has offered a defence of the conditional analysis that I had attacked (Ch. 3). He attempted to show that a refined conditional analysis avoids the existing objections. Despite this, I still think the conditional analysis should be spurned. I give my reasons in my reply to Malzkorn (*Philosophical Quarterly*, 51 (2001)).

There are two issues about which I am less happy. One is the notion of ungrounded dispositions (7.10), which I intend to reconsider in a paper called 'Filled in Space'. The second is the account of laws (Ch. 10). A better case has now been made for the necessity of some laws of nature, in particular by Alexander Bird (*Analysis*, 2001 and 2002), Brian Ellis (*Scientific Essentialism*, 2001), and Eugenio Lombardo (*Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, 2002). I hope to develop my account more satisfactorily in a future book, *Laws in Nature*.

In addition to those named above, and in my original preface, I have had some stimulating exchanges with David Armstrong, Ludger Jansen, and Claudine Tiercelin. The latter two also pointed out some typographical corrections.