

## Summary

### George Berkeley's Notion of Mind

This book explores Berkeley's understanding of spirit and his doctrine of notions, emphasising the pioneering character of his account of self-knowledge. In Chapter 1 the fundamental orientation of the interpretation is established, and reasons for doubting the standard empiricist reading of his work are offered. In Chapter 2 approaches to self-knowledge in Berkeley's contemporaries are examined. In Chapter 3 it is shown that Berkeley's theory of vision downplays the epistemic importance of seeing and treats kinaesthetic movement as fundamental to our grasp of space, thus prefiguring Berkeley's active understanding of the intellect and mind, which is the subject of Chapter 4. In this chapter Berkeley's special form of dualism that pertains to spirit and idea is also set forth. In Chapter 5 it is shown that although Berkeley's philosophy has more in common with innatism than empiricism, it ultimately goes beyond both traditions, offering a synthesis. In Chapter 6 the account of the key concepts of number, good, and God in Berkeley's system are investigated, and it is shown how Berkeley's account of these in his last neo-Platonic work, *Siris*, is continuous with his earlier philosophy. Chapter 7 the theory of perception is examined and it is shown how sense perception has an active dimension, distinguishing the account from the empiricist theory of sense found in John Locke. Chapter 8 shows how Berkeley offers us an original theory of concepts that springs from his active understanding of spirit.