

Mill as a Socratic

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Throughout his life John Stuart Mill referred to himself (as well as to his father) as a Platonist, meaning by this term that he had adopted the Socratic method. This paper addresses four questions: 1) How does Mill distinguish between Socrates and Plato? 2) What does Mill mean by the Socratic method and its two constituent elements, positive and negative dialectics? 3) How does the Socratic method fit into his account of the relationship between science and art, and, particularly, the art of life? and 4) How can Mill, the self-confessed Epicurean, be reconciled with Mill, the Socratic?