Preface

In the period since the publication of the first edition, global problems have made this work increasingly relevant. At the same time local problems, such as the demise of University College Cardiff, the loss of many of its staff, and the merger out of which University of Wales College of Cardiff emerged in 1987–88, have involved pressing difficulties (of overwork and of insecurity) for the college’s Philosophy Section. Resolving to strengthen its work, especially in the areas of history of philosophy and of applied ethics, the section transformed adversity into opportunity, expanding its work at all levels (not least in research), initiating new M.A. degrees in both these areas, receiving recognition from the Universities Funding Council by way of funding earmarked for a permanent social ethics post, and setting up the Cardiff Centre for Applied Ethics, of whose work this second edition is just one of the fruits. Special thanks are in place to the first cohort of two dozen students of the M.A. in social ethics course, whose interest in the first edition persuaded me of the need of a second for their successors’ sake; to Geoff Boden, a graduate of the section, for unstinted assistance to the feckless operator of a disobliging word processor; and more particularly to my full-time philosophy colleagues, Andrew Belsey, Ruth Chadwick, Michael Durrant and Barry Wilkins, without whose collaborative initiatives, self-denying perseverance and resourceful teamwork the buoyant and thriving Cardiff philosophy activity would not exist, let alone this second edition.