

THE PHILOSOPHICAL REVIEW.

TOWARDS A MODERN PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION.

THE charge has not infrequently been made against philosophy that it makes no progress. Such a charge seems to be based upon the fact that philosophers in our own day, as in the centuries immediately preceding us, are occupied and have been occupied with essentially the same ultimate problems that were discussed in ancient India and in ancient Greece, without arriving at any final solutions. But any serious and honest student of the history of philosophy must, I think, admit that nevertheless progress has been made and is being made. The history of philosophy, in spite of not infrequent aberrations off the main track in directions leading to a *cul de sac*, does show increasing understanding of the problems, a broadening outlook as to the methods necessary for their solution, and no insignificant advance in our ideas as the result of the application of these diverse methods. The history of philosophy reveals to us, not a simple backward and forward movement of the swing of a pendulum, but rather in the main an upward though a spiral process, in which the movement from this side to that, and that to this, both result in some advance.

There is a sense in which it might be said that no one can be efficient as a philosophical thinker who has not studied and thought himself into the problems and ideas of philosophy in general. That seems to be involved in the very nature of philosophizing. In this it differs from work in the field of the natural sciences, where one might very effectively cultivate one part with not much knowledge or intimate understanding of the other parts. The division of labour which has occurred in the region of the natural sciences has been one of the main causes of the rapid progress made in them. And we may regard it as a