

THE PHILOSOPHICAL REVIEW.

CONTEMPORARY GERMAN PHILOSOPHY.¹

I.

IT is a familiar fact that the development of philosophy is determined as much by historical motives and interests and by consideration of the past as by purely systematic motives and factors. This duality of tendencies is expressed in contemporary German philosophy, which is comparable in vigor and character to the philosophy of the pre-war period.

We shall speak first of a series of impressive works of historical character. Here we may mention, in the first place, the so-called *Überweg*. This work has, rightly, been highly regarded by us for decades as a handbook of the history of philosophy. The first part, the *Philosophie des Alterthums* (Karl Prächter), the third part, the *Philosophie der Neuzeit bis zum Ende des achtzehnten Jahrhunderts* (Willi Moog), and the fourth part, *Deutsche Philosophie des neunzehnten Jahrhunderts und der Gegenwart* (Konstantin Oesterreich) have been worked over in an admirable manner. All of these new editions² have been made in the spirit of historical criticism and critical history. They offer no real history of ideas after the fashion of Wilhelm Dilthey and Windelband, but their merit consists in their great exactness and factuality in the reproduction of the doctrines of

¹ *Aus der deutschen Philosophie der Gegenwart*. Translated by W. C. Swabey, New York University. [These articles on "Contemporary German Philosophy" were discontinued in 1914. With this number the series is resumed.—Ed.]

² E. S. Mittler und Sohn, Berlin, 1923, 1924.