

THE
PHILOSOPHICAL REVIEW.

PHILOSOPHY IN FRANCE, 1919.¹

I.

AT the present moment French philosophy is passing through a crisis. Not only were many young scholars killed in the war who were expected to succeed the teachers of to-day, but social and financial difficulties have increased with peace, and created conditions very unfavorable to disinterested work and intellectual productivity. The father of a young man who has just taken his doctorate in philosophy, told me at the end of the examination that it had cost him twenty thousand francs to print his son's thesis. Let us suppose that for shorter or less carefully edited theses a half of this sum would suffice; even so, the candidates, who are just entering upon the teaching profession, would rarely have such a sum at their disposal. They postpone *sine die* the time when they will be able to go to such expense. The French Universities, having little or no resource beyond what the State or cities give them, are trying to find a way to remedy this situation; but up to the present time no solution has been found. There are a great many books out of print, but the publishers cannot bring out new editions because of the cost of paper and labor. Of a score of the best-known books that I tried to buy the other day at one of the largest publishing-houses handling philosophical works, eight could not be had, and there was no telling when there would be a new edition. The Philosophical Society has had to give up the publication of its *Bulletin* on account

¹ Translated from the French by Dr. Katherine E. Gilbert.