

THE PHILOSOPHICAL REVIEW.

ESSENCE AND EXISTENCE.

I SHALL begin by distinguishing four elements in the knowledge situation which an empirical analysis seems to reveal—distinctions which are perfectly easy to draw, and which all alike have enough apparent claim at least to stand for facts, to put the burden of proof upon the one who shall reject them. First, there is the object perceived, the real thing with its status in the world of reality independent of the knowledge relation. This various traditional theories of knowledge have persistently tended to ignore or to deny, but evidently only at the cost of a sharp break with normal human belief. Over against the object stands a second fact, which common sense also in the past has been accustomed to accept, and to think of as an independent and—in a specified sense of the term—subjective entity, belonging to the realm of psychological experience,—the ‘state of consciousness,’ or psychical state, as an existent. Here again we have a sort of fact that is nowadays not universally admitted, and it will be a part of my task to defend it, incidentally, against the current disposition to extrude it from the universe; but meanwhile I find no excuse for anyone pretending that he does not know what the phrase is meant, at least hypothetically, to stand for. It may be identified summarily as that which constituted the whole stock in trade of the traditional English introspective psychologists—the bits of psychological stuff into which it was their business to analyze the conscious life.

About the next distinction there is more excuse for misunder-