

THE  
PHILOSOPHICAL REVIEW.

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NEW AIMS AND TENDENCIES IN PSYCHOLOGY.<sup>1</sup>

THERE are few sciences so problematic, so much discussed, especially in our times, as is psychology. Not only psychology's own representatives, but also every philosopher and the most eminent investigators in neighboring fields are deeply interested in its aims and tendencies.

If we wish to understand the actual purposes and activity of modern psychology, we must examine the situation, particularly in America and in Germany. From the beginning of modern scientific psychology Americans have played an important and effective part. It was at Leipzig, as you know, that Wundt, my venerable teacher, established the first laboratory for experimental psychology. And it is worth while to remember that the first assistant and coöperator with Wundt in this German laboratory was my distinguished colleague of Columbia University, Professor James McKeen Cattell. In the following years a rapidly increasing number of American students and investigators were found working in the psychological laboratories of German universities. They have coöperated in the development of our young science. A considerable number of the same men are now representing psychology in the universities of their country. The first special professorship in psychology in the world was established in the United States and held by Professor Cattell. At the present time, the United States can boast of possessing a more extensive system of psychological research and especially of psychological instruction than any other country. As regards original investigations, the most valuable work of American psychologists hitherto, I think, has

<sup>1</sup> Inaugural address of a course of lectures on Introduction to Psychology, Columbia University.