

## THE PHILOSOPHICAL REVIEW.

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### PHILOSOPHY IN FRANCE, 1921.<sup>1</sup>

FRENCH philosophy lost, last year, a man whose name is among those most widely known outside France, Emile Boutroux. He was a member of the French Academy and of the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences, emeritus Professor at the Sorbonne, Director of the Fondation Thiers—to mention here only his French titles—and was ranked as highly on account of his career as a university teacher as for his writings. His family included, it is hardly necessary to recall, the most eminent men, among them the great mathematician and philosopher, Henri Poincaré; the former President of the Republic, today Prime Minister, Raymond Poincaré; and his brother Lucien Poincaré, late esteemed rector of the University of Paris. He left one son, Pierre Boutroux, whose work on *L'Idéal Scientifique des Mathématiciens* I have had occasion to mention in a former article, and who, after having taught mathematics at Princeton University, is today professor of the history of the sciences at the Collège de France.<sup>2</sup> A son-in-law, M. Villey, whose original work on *La vie des Aveugles* is also well known to readers of this REVIEW, is professor at the University of Caen.

Boutroux was born in 1845, and studied at the Ecole Normale from 1865 to 1868. His thought formed itself under the influence

<sup>1</sup> Translated from the French by Harold R. Smart.

<sup>2</sup> At the moment of submitting this article for publication I learn with very great sorrow of the death of M. Pierre Boutroux; an event deplorable not only because of its untimeliness (M. Boutroux was scarcely more than forty years old), but also because of the further scholarly contributions which the sciences and philosophy might have expected from so talented a personality.