

THE
PHILOSOPHICAL REVIEW.

THE DETERMINATION OF HUMAN ENDS.

BETWEEN the scientific theorist, and the man of practical or imaginative ideals, there has tended to be a standing quarrel. It is crystallized in the familiar formula of opposition between what ought to be, and what is—a distinction which the scientist in his zeal for extending the province of ordered and rational apprehension feels himself continually led to question, and which the common man stubbornly refuses to give up. I am in a way setting out in the first place to give reasons for the belief that this opposition is an unavoidable one, and that science can never hope to bring ideals wholly within the scope of its special methods. The matter can most easily be approached in terms of the social ideal. Nowadays such ideals have come to be, possibly, the biggest thing on our intellectual horizon. Nevertheless, among the more academic intellectual tendencies, there is often visible a reaction in the opposite direction. And this disposition to adopt a tone of patronage and rebuke toward flaming enthusiasms and to confine the imagination rather to the sober task of catching the drift of the working laws of things as they are, the continued endeavor to beat back man's faith in his own ideal demands by calling to his mind their factual character, their relativity, their dependence on impersonal conditions, is perhaps natural and unavoidable. Still, if science is to persist in taking thus the whole situation in hand, there is a difficult question which she is bound to answer. She must let us know clearly how she proposes on her own part to go to work to formulate the ends which mankind shall follow—