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## THE PHILOSOPHICAL REVIEW.

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NATURE AND MIND: SOME NOTES ON PROFESSOR  
WARD'S GIFFORD LECTURES.

### I.

THE various lecturers who have from time to time been appointed in the four Scottish universities on Lord Gifford's foundation have interpreted the obligation to treat of "Natural Theology" in very various fashions, and it is in the interests of the scientific and philosophical study of religion that this should be so. Mr. Ward, in the two volumes which contain his lectures, is occupied entirely with the negative task of criticising those theories of the universe that seem to him inconsistent with any natural theology whatever. "I take it for granted," he says in his preface, "that till an idealistic (*i. e.*, spiritualistic) view of the world can be sustained, any exposition of theism is but wasted labour." His work might thus be described as 'Prolegomena to Every Future Gifford Lecture.' Most modern idealists (*e. g.*, Berkeley or T. H. Green) have sought to refute materialism by showing that matter has no meaning except *for* mind. Mr. Ward gives comparatively but little space to this epistemological method of attack, and the precise relation of his own epistemology to that of the two writers I have named seems to me somewhat obscure. All his first volume, and incidentally many passages of the second, consist of an elaborate discussion of the mechanical theory and the theory of evolution, and half of the second volume is an examination of the theory of psycho-phys-