

THE
PHILOSOPHICAL REVIEW.

THE GENESIS OF THE CRITICAL PHILOSOPHY.

To explain Kant's system is to trace its historical derivation. KUNO FISCHER.

Whatever bears on the origin of philosophic opinion bears also on its validity. E.
B. TYLOR.

Were the question of origin once determined that of use and validity would be settled ipso facto. KANT.

I. LOGICAL.

IN the last paragraph of the *Critique of Pure Reason*, Kant describes the only possible methods of philosophy and forecasts the results that may be expected to follow upon the adoption of his own. "As regards those who observe a *scientific method*," he says, "they have the choice to proceed either *dogmatically* or *sceptically*, but in both cases they are under obligation to proceed *systematically*. When I have mentioned in relation to the former the celebrated Wolff, and in relation to the latter David Hume, I may for my present purpose leave all the rest unnamed. The only path that is still open is the *critical*. If the reader has been kind and patient enough to follow me to the end along this path, he may judge for himself whether, if he will help, as far as in him lies, towards making this footpath a high road, it may not be possible to achieve, even before the close of the present century, what so many centuries have not been able to achieve, namely, to give complete satisfaction to human reason with regard to those questions which have in all ages exercised its desire for knowledge, though hitherto in vain."

The prognostication was not fulfilled. But it was not because