

# THE PHILOSOPHICAL REVIEW.

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## PHILOSOPHY IN FRANCE, 1924.<sup>1</sup>

### I.

CONTRARY to what prevails in many other countries, the most characteristic feature of French philosophy at the present time is the almost entire absence of philosophical schools. There is great intellectual activity, but each thinker modestly presents his own conclusions, and counts especially upon being assisted toward more accurate conceptions by the mutual correction of differing results. *Veritas filia temporis*. We are far from the day when Victor Cousin could speak fervently of "holding firm and high the banner of eclecticism," and the controversies which we ourselves knew in our youth between 'spiritualism' and 'positivism' produce much the same effect upon us today as the celebrated Quarrel between the Ancients and the Moderns. There have been no 'successors' of Lachelier, Boutroux, or Hamelin, so far as concerns the originality of their doctrines. In M. Lionel Dauriac the last representative of neo-criticism passed away, but even he was a very independent representative, never imposing upon himself any standards of orthodoxy respecting the teachings of the master.<sup>2</sup> A philosopher like M. Bergson has powerfully influenced some men of his own and almost all those of the succeeding generation; he has called forth violent individual reactions; but

<sup>1</sup> Translated from the French by Professor Glenn R. Morrow.

<sup>2</sup> His son, M. Carle Lionel-Dauriac, has just published a posthumous work of his father, *Contingence et rationalisme*, for the most part historical in character (see further mention below), but containing also two theoretical studies: *Contingence et catégorie, Nécessité médiate et nécessité immédiate*. Vrin.