

## THE PHILOSOPHICAL REVIEW.

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### THE IDEA OF SPACE.<sup>1</sup>

IN the present discussion of this subject three main questions will be considered. The universality of the space form and the function which it fulfills in consciousness will be first taken up; though these are distinct problems, they cannot be entirely separated in treatment. We shall then proceed to ask whether space is objective.

Is space an universal form of conscious experience? It is very important to notice that it is an universal form of adult experience. The correctness of this view is not, indeed, admitted by all psychologists; many who agree that space is the form of sight and touch maintain that the other senses are non-spatial. Yet surely the testimony of consciousness leaves no room for doubting that, at least in adult experience, all sense data are present in extensive form.

Let sound be considered as a crucial instance. "No one," says Mr. Spencer confidently, "will allege that sound has any space attributes." Such a view has some justification in the fact that the sense of hearing seems to differ widely from the 'geometrical' senses of sight and touch. Yet, on the other hand, we find that sounds are located in definite parts of space. Further, they are not located in mere points; they have volume. It is said that their apparent voluminosity is due to their being associated with visual or tactual experiences; but this explanation implies the significant admission that in our mature experience

<sup>1</sup> Read in somewhat changed form at the joint meeting of the Western Philosophical Association and the Western branch of the American Psychological Association in Iowa City, Ia., in April, 1903.