

THE
PHILOSOPHICAL REVIEW.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF PHILOSOPHY IN THE
NINETEENTH CENTURY. I.¹

THE history of man's critical and reflective thought upon the more ultimate problems of nature and of his own life has, indeed, its periods of quickened progress, relative stagnation, and apparent decline. Great thinkers are born and die, 'schools of philosophy' so-called arise, flourish, and become discredited; and tendencies of various characteristics mark the national or more general *Zeitgeist* of the particular centuries. And always a certain deep undercurrent, or powerful stream of the rational evolution of humanity, flows silently onward. But these periods of philosophical development do not correspond to those which have been marked off for man by the rhythmic motion of the heavenly bodies, or by himself for the purposes of greater convenience in practical affairs. The proposal, therefore, to treat any century of philosophical development as though it could be taken out of, and considered apart from, this constant unfolding of man's rational life is of necessity doomed to failure. And, indeed, the nineteenth century is no exception to the general truth.

There is, however, one important historical fact which makes more definite, and more feasible, the attempt to present in outline the history of the philosophical development of the nineteenth century.

This fact is the death of Immanuel Kant, Feb. 12, 1804. In a very unusual way this event marks the close of the develop-

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