

THE PHILOSOPHICAL REVIEW.

THE DOCTRINE OF SPACE AND TIME.

I. THE KANTIAN DOCTRINE OF SPACE.¹

THE plain man is apt to think of space as a real something beyond consciousness, in which the material things which he sees and feels exist and move. A little questioning reveals clearly that, concerning the nature of this something, he has the vaguest ideas. It is not matter, and it is not like matter ; but it undoubtedly exists, and it is plainly indispensable to the existence of material things. He hesitates to affirm that it may properly be called a 'thing' at all ; but, 'thing' or not, he is sure that it exists, and believes that it would continue to exist even if every material thing were annihilated.

Touching some of the properties of this perplexing something, however, he regards himself as having very definite bits of information. Space is three-dimensional ; it is homogeneous in all its parts ; it is infinite in extent ; every portion of it is infinitely divisible. It is, in other words, an infinite *continuum*, which must be granted real existence if the world of matter is to be allowed any reality at all, and is not to be reduced to a mere semblance of a world, an unreal dream.

We shall see later that there is much truth, as well as some misconception, in the plain man's views touching the nature of space. One thing we may object to at the outset, and that is the

¹ A portion of this paper was read at the meeting of the American Psychological Association held in Baltimore in December, 1900.