

embryological, and morbid psychology, from which he expected much assistance, his ideas remained vague, as did those of the contemporary school of the "Idéologues," among whom Destutt de Tracy¹ deserves honourable mention as having conceived the plan of a psychological treatment of grammar. Their merit lay more in drawing the plans of the new science of psychology as a natural science in its largest sense, and of urging its scientific and exact treatment, than in making a real and fruitful beginning on special lines.

It is a remarkable fact that the first attempt to analyse in detail one of the special instances of psycho-physical interaction came about a hundred years earlier from that successor of Locke who has always been counted as the extreme idealistic development of English speculation. Bishop Berkeley's 'Essay towards a New Theory of Vision' (1709) has been called "the veritable historical starting-point of psycho-physical investigation."² Although averse to any exact theory of the universe, deeming it "beneath the dignity of the mind to affect exactness,"³ and at war with the mathema-

7.
Berkeley's
'Theory of
Vision.

¹ Picavet (p. 398) says of Destutt de Tracy (1754-1836): "Venu par les sciences à la philosophie, D. de Tracy a donné à l'idéologie un nom et un caractère positif. S'il a cru, à tort, qu'il pouvait la constituer de toutes pièces, il a fort bien vu que, pour devenir une science indépendante et complète, elle devait s'appuyer sur la physiologie et la pathologie, sur l'étude des enfants, sur celle des fous et sur celle des animaux. Il l'a unie intimement à la grammaire et à la logique, à la morale et à l'économie politique, à la législation et à la politique."

² Dr Edmund Montgomery, in his very interesting and valuable critical analysis of 'Space and Touch,' three memoirs contained in the tenth volume of the first series of 'Mind' (1885), p. 385.

³ See 'A Treatise concerning the Principles of Human Knowledge,' § 109: "As in reading other books, a wise man will choose to fix his thoughts on the sense and apply it to use, rather than lay them out in grammatical remarks on the language; so in perusing the volume of nature it seems beneath the dignity of the mind to effect an exactness in reduc-