

4.
Erkennt-
nisstheorie.

schaft or Science) in the spirit of Kant's own speculations. Sixty years later the term *Erkenntnisstheorie* (in English Epistemology) marks the beginning of a new series of attempts to deal with the problem of knowledge, with the distinct aim of going back to Kant, of reverting to the problem of the critical philosophy. This direction of philosophical thought manifests itself independently in all the three countries with which we are mainly occupied. It was most loudly proclaimed in Germany by F. A. Lange and supported by Eduard Zeller, both having turned away from the metaphysical systems of Kant's immediate successors. In this country somewhat later the study of those very systems, which Germany rejected, led the opponents of Mill, Comte, and Spencer to go back to Kant as a necessary preparation for carrying out more satisfactorily and consistently the great scheme propounded by Hegel.

5.
Renouvier's
Neo-
criticism.

In France Charles Renouvier took up quite an original and unique position in opposition to the prevailing official philosophy of his country,¹ and in distinct recog-

¹ The foremost works referring to this movement which have appeared in Germany and in this country are in general well known, and have had a widespread influence. But the equally important and equally original labours of Renouvier remained for a long time unknown and unrecognised beyond a narrow circle of followers in his own country. And even there his influence as one of the leading thinkers of recent times has only gradually made its way. The reason, *inter alia*, given for this, is that the works of Renouvier are deficient in style and elegance of expression, defects which French literary taste

cannot forgive. See, *e.g.*, what M. Ribot says in his otherwise appreciative mention of Renouvier in 'Mind,' 1877, vol. ii. p. 379: "I regret to have to state that in France Renouvier's works have not been sufficiently read, and that they are far from obtaining the success they deserve. The fault lies in the author's style, and still more in a want of art and composition, not easily forgiven by French readers. It should be remarked, however, that of late years the diffusion of his doctrines has begun to make way; not so much perhaps on their own account, as because they are related to the