

Although the tendency of this Review is not religious in the older sense of the term, many of its contributors have latterly given great attention to the subject of religion, recognising that it is impossible to extinguish altogether the religious instinct, and aiming at the elaboration of a reasoned creed in harmony with the results of recent scientific and historical research. It is noteworthy that among these are not only professedly independent thinkers but also members of the Roman Catholic Church.

But in all the three countries the problem upon which philosophical thought seems to concentrate itself most is the social problem, though, for reasons just mentioned, the position of thinkers differs materially in the three countries; so much so that sociology exhibits in each country a well-marked national character. The most philosophical, if not abstract, treatment of the problem is to be found in Germany, where the greatest skill and ingenuity, with the assistance of science, criticism, and erudition, is directed to laying the foundations of a science of society, starting with an adequate and comprehensive definition of the conception of society. To the labours in this field of research, both logical and historical, the great work of Prof. Ludwig Stein gives ample testimony, but also to the fact that little agreement exists on the different separate questions into which the larger problem can be divided.

In England and France the social problem is treated more in connection with actual practical demands of the day. These are, in England, pre-eminently economical,