

This movement, however, belongs to a later period. A whole generation intervened between the death of Hegel and the beginning of Hegelian studies in this country. During that period Hegel was forgotten and neglected in his own country: it was the period during which the scientific spirit gained the upper hand and usurped the name of philosophy—moving about in the new region of thought in the same uncritical manner in which Metaphysics had deported themselves before the time of Kant. The Critical Spirit was only then beginning to examine the principles and methods of Science in the same way as Kant had, two generations earlier, examined the principles and methods of Metaphysics. We may term this period that intervened between the earlier and the later idealistic school of thought, the “period of transition.”

18.
The period of
transition.

The labours of this period, so far as scientific thought is concerned, are marked by their growing international character; at the end of the period science had become cosmopolitan. Not so philosophy. Each of the three countries in which we are mainly interested prepared in its own way that change of ideas which marks the essential intellectual difference between the beginning and the end of the century. We may identify the work of each country respectively with the names of Lotze in Germany, Comte in France, Mill and the Utilitarians in England.

Popularly, the best-known types of philosophical thought in the three countries are Materialism and Pessimism in Germany, Positivism and social philosophy in France, Naturalism and Agnosticism in England.