

CHAPTER VI.

OF NATURE.

I.

OLDER Metaphysics comprised four distinct branches. Of these the first dealt with the problem of Reality in the abstract, attempting, in the main, to answer such questions as "What is Real?" "What is the truly Real?" The conclusions arrived at were then applied to three separate special questions. First, there presented itself the question as to the reality of the external world: this was the problem of Nature; secondly, there was the question as to the reality of the internal world: this constituted the problem of the Soul; and lastly, there was the question as to the reality which stood above and beyond the realities of the external and the internal worlds: this referred to the Divine Order of things, we may say that it constituted the problem of the Spirit. Thus Ontology was followed by Cosmology, rational Psychology, and rational Theology. Now, although most of these terms have become obsolete, the problems which they designated still remain. The principal reason why we do not generally adopt the older terminology is because it has been recognised that in all the three regions, in

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Nature: a
metaphys-
ical problem.