

CHAPTER I.

THE INTROSPECTIVE METHOD.

I.

MODERN Philosophy, as distinguished from Mediæval Philosophy, is usually dated from Descartes. He may be said to have inaugurated the introspective as distinguished from the metaphysical or dialectical point of view as the beginning of all fruitful mental philosophy. Without entering into minute details, the difference between these two points of view may be stated as follows.

The adult thinking mind at that advanced stage of civilisation when and where philosophy becomes a desideratum if not a necessity, finds itself in possession of a large number of abstract terms. Such terms, words, or phrases are in general currency among thinking persons, and are used in very various ways. They are employed to prove certain statements of a general character, and they are equally used to disprove these same statements. Through this very different use of the same terms a general confusion arises, and this on its part leads to distrust and scepticism. In Greece a special art came into existence which purposed to show up this general uncertainty