

said to have grown out of these vague and scattered beginnings by the attempt to conduct them according to some method, and to unite them into a complete and consistent whole. Philosophy may thus be defined as speculation carried on according to some clear method, and aiming at systematic unity.¹ Both science and philosophy may be called methodical thought, but the word system is applicable only to the higher and more advanced forms of philosophic thought which aim at unity and completeness.

10.
Philosophy
defined.

We have thus arrived at a second division of our subject. In the first we have to consider thought merely as a means to an end ; in the second we have to consider it as its own object, as a reflection on itself, carried on with the object of knowing its own origin, its laws, its validity, of testing its powers, and with the end and aim of gaining certainty, completeness, and unity. The whole of this great division of thought I shall comprise under the

11.
Division of
the book.

¹ This view of the nature and object of Philosophy agrees with Lotze's definition (see 'Grundzüge der Logik,' Leipzig, 1883, § 88): "The *common culture of life* and the *separate sciences* contain a number of suppositions the origin of which is obscure to us, because they have been very gradually formed within us through the comparison of many experiences, or because they have first become conscious by means of such experiences, have then received definite names and become habitual without having been subjected by us to any examination as to the reason, the sense, and the extent of their validity. In this way science and life make use of the notions of *cause* and *effect*, of *matter* and *force*, of *means* and *end*, of *freedom* and *necessity*, of *matter* and

mind, and they frequently entangle themselves, owing to the above-mentioned defect, in contradictions, inasmuch as they are unable to fix the limits of validity of these to some extent contradictory assumptions.

"Now we may formally define the task of Philosophy as follows: that it is an endeavour to import unity and connectedness into the scattered directions of cultured thought, to follow each of these directions into its assumptions and into its consequences, to combine them all together, to remove their contradictions, and to form out of them a comprehensive view of the world ; mainly, however, to subject those ideas which science and life regard as *principles* to a special scrutiny, in order to determine the limits of their validity."