

most striking intellectual feature of the century, it would be the equally great and remarkable array of scientific names of the first magnitude. In France during the early part of the century the foundation of nearly all the modern sciences was laid; many of them were brought under the rule of a strict mathematical treatment. It was there that scientific subjects were made so popular, and clothed with a garment of such elegant diction, that they have since that time greatly entered into general consciousness, and have promoted in literature and art an independent school—the naturalistic. Compared with this mathematical and naturalistic spirit, philosophy proper has found but a meagre development and culture in France: the constructive tendency of idealism has found nourishment for the most part only in leanings to the older systems of Descartes, Plato, and Aristotle, or to the foreign ones of Hegel and other German metaphysicians. Compared with Germany in philosophy, and with France in science, England during the early part of the century appears remarkably unproductive. English science and English philosophy had flourished in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and leavened the whole of European thought, but in the beginning of our period we find neither represented by any great schools. The great discoveries in science belonged to individual names, who frequently stood isolated; the organisation and protection which science could boast of in France was then unknown in England; into popular thought it hardly entered as an element at all. Metaphysics had not recovered from the blow which David Hume had struck, and speculation was confined

24.  
French  
thought  
centred in  
science dur-  
ing the first  
part of the  
century.

25.  
State of  
philosophy  
in the early  
part of the  
nineteenth  
century in  
England.