

I shall try to answer as concisely as possible. This selection does not commit me to any theory on the value of the scientific view as compared with other aspects. Such theories will have to be dealt with in a later portion of the work. They have sprung up in the course of the last hundred years, partly as the inevitable outcome of scientific progress itself, partly in the educational world, where a reaction has set in against the undue importance which former generations attached to classical learning and training. I need not at present do more than note these opinions, nor need I define my position with regard to Comte's celebrated positivist theory on the advancing stages of the human intellect. Curiosity and the consensus of popular opinion suffice for the moment to make me take up the scientific side of the thought of the age. As we proceed, other directions and movements will present themselves, and the interdependence of all human interests will reveal and explain what truth attaches to Hegel's celebrated doctrine of the inherent dialectic of ideas, the spontaneous development of thought.

40.
Hegel's doctrine of the spontaneous development of thought.