

was a region in which we found them weak. They thought more of the individual formation, the crystal, the plant, the animal, while the co-operating laws and larger combinations of phenomena were scarcely within the range of the characteristic as they understood it. But fully in the spirit of science, Mr Ruskin has pointed out with loving appreciation the value and import of variable curves, graduated colours, and the nature and stratification of earth and rock, so that to the nature-lover versed in this expressiveness, the hills and plains, the cliffs and river-courses, are able to tell their story like a human face."

All this, however, is mentioned here only in passing, and to show again how the problem of the Beautiful was studied independently of the great philosophical movement and outside of the systems of the school, as a special branch of art-criticism. At a somewhat later period than that which produced the earlier writings of Carlyle and Ruskin, the desire began to make itself felt, also in this country, to elaborate a philosophical creed. As I have repeatedly pointed out, this demand had existed abroad ever since the middle of the seventeenth century. Under its influence the great philosophical problems were formulated, latest among them probably that of the Beautiful. In this country these problems, so far as they were recognised at all, arose in a loose and disconnected manner through other influences and interests, among which social questions were probably the most important and pressing. We find this specific English characteristic strongly marked also in many of the prom-