

are the two main difficulties with which any system of naturalism has to deal, and it is significant and interesting to note that the most comprehensive attempt in recent times to deal with these difficulties, from a purely anthropological point of view, is to be found in French literature, and especially in the remarkable writings of Jean Marie Guyau.

82.
J. M. Guyau.

We have already, in the two foregoing chapters, dealt with the positive side of Guyau's teaching, with his philosophy of the Beautiful and his Ethics; and we shall have to revert to it when in the following chapter we deal with the problem of Society. At present it is rather the negative side which I desire to dwell on. With him the spiritual view of things and of life does not coincide with traditional religion and morality, the main positions of which he rejects. He teaches a peculiar kind of Irreligion and Immoralism, or rather he desires to rise beyond the conventional standards of morality and the traditional dogmas of religion. He has thus, in a remarkable study by M. Alfred Fouillée, been correctly and significantly compared with Nietzsche in Germany.¹ Now the two main positions in the

¹ 'Nietzsche et L'Immoralisme,' by Alfred Fouillée (2nd ed., 1902). From the Introduction to this work we learn that Nietzsche was well acquainted with Guyau's principal works, his own copies of which are covered with marginal notes of approval and criticism, but that neither Guyau nor Fouillée himself knew Nietzsche personally, though they lived for some time at the same places on the Riviera. M. Fouillée expresses his comparative estimate of the two thinkers, whose

names have been brought together in several critical notices by French and German writers, as follows: "Les œuvres de Guyau et de Nietzsche ont ainsi éveillé de toutes parts des échos plus ou moins discordants. Quant à nous, il nous semble que l'individualisme de Nietzsche a besoin d'être corrigé par le point de vue social de Guyau. Aussi avons-nous cru nécessaire, tout en insistant sur Nietzsche, de le comparer à son devancier français. Les théories du penseur allemand