

Schopenhauer, von Hartmann, and Nietzsche. This direction of thought was likewise assisted by the disappointment which, in Germany, succeeded the failure of the political movement of the year 1848. The latter had been largely led by theorists and supported by scholars and students from the German universities. Political as well as philosophical aspirations had failed. To this must be added the renewed influence of the critical writings of Kant and the sceptical writings of Hume, to which Neo-Kantians in Germany and Neo-Hegelians in England drew marked attention. The word Agnosticism was coined to denote the hopeless attitude in which the human mind found itself with regard to what Carlyle termed the "Eternal Verities." This term was destined to acquire a much larger meaning than either Huxley or Spencer probably realised, when the criticism of the principles of scientific thought revealed not only their formal precision and practical usefulness but quite as much their essential instability and uncertainty, their purely provisional nature.

16.  
Different  
attitudes in  
the three  
countries.

To the brilliantly expressed pessimism of Schopenhauer in Germany and the widespread agnosticism proceeding from Spencer in England, France added the probabilism of Renan. Thus, all three countries contributed, in their own way, to expose the general inconclusiveness of modern lines of reasoning: Germany of speculative, England of scientific, France of historical and critical research. An attempt has been made to admit in general this inconclusiveness of modern European thought, and at the same time to answer and counteract it. And it is significant