

an opponent, with the former, of the shallow materialism and, with the latter, of the socialism of the age.

With an appreciation of Professor Wundt's important labours in the direction of systematisation of thought we might properly close this chapter. During the last twenty years of the century no comprehensive and original system of philosophy has made its appearance. Wundt's work has in this respect been compared by German writers to the work of Aristotle in antiquity : concluding for a period the systematic effort of thought and giving at the same time such a comprehensive critical view of contemporary speculation and contemporary problems that great originality as well as much erudition will be required from any one who would succeed in finding and establishing a new departure in systematic philosophy. The foundation of any new system will have to be laid both much deeper and much broader than in the past. Accordingly, the work which has been done since, in all the three countries, is, if not devoid of originality, yet on the whole fragmentary and preparatory. No one has ventured upon a new and comprehensive summation of these labours. Nevertheless, some progress has been made towards systematisation ; but this progress stands still under the culminating sign of one dominant idea which led Spencer as well as Wundt, the idea of Evolution.

The peculiar aspect given to this idea through Spencer has been more stimulating to French than to German thought. The latter took it more directly from Darwin, or from the earlier and more comprehensive conception of development which, since the time of