

85.
W. James.

the writings of the American philosopher, William James. He has brought together under the name of Pragmatism certain trains of reasoning peculiar to himself, but suggested likewise by contemporary writers in America and, to a lesser degree, in this country. For the understanding, diffusion, and acceptance of the teachings of this most recent school of philosophical thought, it has been of great value that it has concentrated its efforts upon the solution of a purely logical question, and that it gives this solution in a few simple words. The problem is the old question: What is truth? The answer: Truth is that which works. William James himself frankly admits that the new term Pragmatism, which was evolved in a conversation of his with a friend, is to a large extent a new name for Ideas which are not new. And similarly, in addition to a few striking and original logical dissertations, a great deal of the propaganda of the Pragmatists lies in the pains they are taking to show how in modern, but still more in ancient, philosophy the fundamental conception of their creed is variously anticipated: an argument which tells as much against the originality as it does for the universality of their central doctrine.

86.
Relative
absence
of system.

These latest developments of philosophic thought, which reach into the first decade of the twentieth century, and so do not come into the scheme of this History, do not advance to a complete systematic treatment such as we meet with in the works of Herbert Spencer and of Professor Wundt. Among the more recent thinkers it is only M. Fouillée who has demonstrated the value of his central idea by dealing with some of the standard