

support. The position of Bain is distinguished likewise by his introduction of the study of the physiological phenomena connected with mental processes, in which line of research he was influenced by the work of Continental students. But Bain did not turn his back upon that method which had become characteristic of British philosophy; he conceived it in a larger sense as the "introspective method" rather than as the "method of ideas," and, in one of his last deliverances, still upheld it as by far the most important in the domain of what was now called psychology.

In the meantime, contact with the natural sciences on the one side and with Continental thought on the other affected British philosophy very powerfully in several ways. Among these the most noticeable is the importation of those new aspects which had gradually come out in the study of nature, and which found their most pointed expression in this country in the writings of Spencer, Darwin, and Huxley. The phenomena of the outer world, notably those of the living creation, ceased to be studied in isolation. Their interconnection in space and time attracted special attention. Environment and development became watchwords in research and categories of thought.

This way of looking at natural phenomena found its classical expression in the doctrine of evolution, which will always be connected with the name of Herbert Spencer; it became so popular as to permeate not only all philosophical writings but every branch of literature and research, both on a large and on a restricted scale. The idea was so comprehensive