

consistent statement, and then expects the Jury to agree in their verdict.

The aim of dialectic or criticism in philosophy is thus to establish consistency of thought and agreement with others.

## II.

The historical development of this dialectic method, though it led to great refinement of thought, proved, nevertheless, in the course of many centuries, to be incapable of securing the two points just mentioned, namely, consistency and agreement of thought, and it was therefore natural that thinking minds should ponder over the causes of this failure and seek for a different method of procedure. This different method was first clearly practised in the Natural Sciences.

In the domain of these the discussion of words and terms of language was gradually superseded by direct observation of things, and by a new language provided by mathematics, and based ultimately on geometry. This change secured at once the definition of the object dealt with, and as this was accessible to every one, the desired agreement of thought. Inasmuch, however, as this abandoning of words in favour of facts and symbols was only applicable to what is termed the outer world—*i.e.*, Things in Space—the task of philosophy was only half solved.

The thinker who first clearly recognised the gradual change which had come over the sciences, through