

I conceived of philosophical Thought as occupying an intermediate position between scientific Thought and Individual—Poetical and Religious—Thought. In its general nature I considered philosophical thought to be akin to Science, inasmuch as it proceeds by definite method: but I also conceived its relationship with poetical and religious thought as being essentially introspective. Thus philosophy agrees with science inasmuch as it proceeds methodically, but it differs from science inasmuch as the latter is based on circumspection, whereas philosophy is based on introspection.

The whole work was thus planned to comprise three sections: first, The History of Scientific Thought during the Nineteenth Century in the three countries, France, Germany, and England; second, The History of Philosophic Thought; and third, The History of Individual—Poetical and Religious—Thought. Unfortunately I have not been able to do more than complete the first two sections. Advanced years and deficient eyesight have made it impossible for me to attempt to write the third section, although before beginning to put anything in writing I had made very extensive studies in what may be called the Introspective Literature of the three countries. This has caused some misunderstanding as to the drift of the whole book and some not undeserved criticisms.

It was urged by some critics that German Thought was placed unduly in the foreground with a corresponding neglect of the large body of original