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REVIEW SECTION.

I.—A NEW FACTOR IN AMERICAN THEOLOGICAL THOUGHT.

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THE influence of German thought upon that of America in the departments of the technical and learned sciences, has in the last decade or two been growing to a wonderful degree. Particularly is this the case with the theology of the land of scholars, and it can with right and reason be denominated a new factor and force in the American church. The avenues through which it has been finding an entrance are many. The number of American students in attendance at the famous universities of the Fatherland now averages nearly four hundred each semester. The great majority of these are students either of theology or of branches closely allied to theology, such as the Semitic languages. These young men as a rule belong to the brightest of American college and seminary graduates; they go abroad for the special purpose of learning the secret of the literary and scholarly success that has made the German system of higher education almost without a peer or rival. Then, returning home, they become energetic, progressive teachers in turn, and the leaders of a host of pupils, thus spreading the influence of German thought and German methods into constantly widening circles of American life.

The force that enters through this personal channel alone cannot but be immense. And yet it is only one of the many avenues through which the scholastic ideas and ideals of Germany are exerting a material influence in moulding the minds and character of the rising generation of American thinkers and theologians. Probably ten German books, especially those that are representative of what is peculiar in German investigation, study and education, are translated in English to one from any other tongue; nearly all the middle aged and younger among American scholars, particularly in the department of theology, keep themselves posted upon the detail researches of their branch, as these are best presented in the pages of German works and technical periodicals; many of the journals of our land are very conscientious in noting completely the ups and downs of German thought and study. In this way the spirit and method of that thought are constantly becoming more and more a formative factor in these cir-