

oughly into the discussion of the last question, which is perhaps the most pressing metaphysical problem of the present day.)

The additional matter contained in this edition will help to fill out the somewhat meagre outline of Idealism given in the former edition. But I am still only too conscious of the inadequacy of the discussion. The present work is merely the preparation for a system of philosophy, and cannot but share in the inevitable defects of every attempt to present the results of philosophical reflection in a general form. (At every step in its onward march philosophy sets its foot upon ashes beneath which fierce fires glow. Our age, as Kant said of his own, is an "age of criticism," when even the most cherished convictions must submit to the "free and open scrutiny of reason"; and therefore any one who apparently ignores or makes light of difficulties which to some of his contemporaries seem of a formidable character is apt to be charged with superficiality, indifference, or dogmatism. I do not deny that many of the objections which have been urged against Idealism seem