

are beyond physics, so are they beyond the reach of physical methods of observation. Again, in the field of science fresh observations are continually made and recorded with ever-increasing accuracy, so that the store of facts ready to hand grows larger day by day, and the work of drawing inferences from these facts is enabled to go on with accelerating rapidity. The case is different with Philosophy. The mind, the only instrument of the philosopher, may have advanced somewhat in power and capacity, but it is obvious that it has not been improved to the extent that the instruments of Science have been; nor, from the nature of the case, can there be any such accumulation of observations for the use of the philosopher in the very fringe of our knowledge, the border-land of the unknown, as that which has been made for the man of science in the whole vast field of empirical knowledge. Thus the modern and ancient philosopher do not differ so greatly from one another as the men of science do in respect to the means at their disposal for reaching the truth at which they aim; and therefore it is the less surprising that thinkers in the earliest and latest times should, on some points, have reached the same conclusions. But even when this is the case, it does not necessarily follow that no progress has been made. The movement which Mr. Lewes would represent as circular may more properly be called spiral. It comes back, indeed, in a certain sense, to the point from which it started, but on a higher level of understanding. In Philosophy, as well as in other subjects, it sometimes happens that the acute or happy guess of an early speculator is not far from the truth; but still there are defects and errors in the statement which, when brought to light by further inquiry, cause the first view to be abandoned for another, and that in turn to give place to a third, and so on, till at last the course of speculation returns to a conception or theory very similar in appearance to that which was first propounded. But in such a case we cannot say that no progress has been made, or that nothing has been gained. The long inquiry has thrown light from many directions upon the original conception, and cleared it of