ASPECTS OF MODERN PSYCHOLOGY

By Dr. CHARLES S. MYERS

ENGLAND

Two hundred years ago psychology had no independent existence. But it was fast developing in importance and towards differentiation from the universe of philosophy to which it then belonged. In the year 1740, Berkeley and Hume were still living; Kant was in his teens; Locke, Malebranche and Leibnitz had not long since died, and the elder (James) Mill, Herbart and Lotze were yet unborn. Hitherto the concern of philosophers with what was to become psychology had had chief reference to their speculations upon the nature of knowledge and understanding and upon the relations between mind and matter. But now their interests and observations were becoming increasingly psychological in other directions, and they were fore-shadowing views and attitudes which were to achieve prominence and importance throughout the history of psychology after its emancipation.

It was the mathematical and biological sciences that helped finally in the birth of psychology as a separate field of study and as an experimental science; they likewise played a part in the emergence of political economy and education, respectively, also out of philosophy. After a sterile mathematical treatment by Herbart of the higher mental processes in the early
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