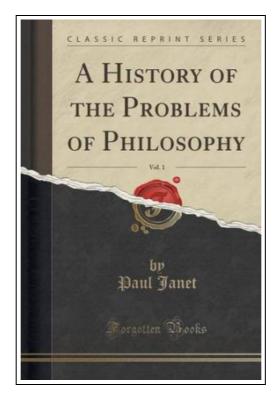
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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English. Brand New Book ****** Print on Demand ******. Excerpt from A History of the Problems of Philosophy, Vol. 1 The poets of this country have been bold and very great, its philosophers timid and, on the whole, of a moderate reputation. Our genius is practical, and has shown itself so even in this matter; for poetry reaches the results of philosophy by short cuts, and without the endless linkage of argumentation. A practical people is always prudent, and seeks aims well within its reach; and we have cultivated science rather than philosophy and the inventive applications of science more than its abstract inquiries. We shun adventurousness even in the world of thought - except that of the imagination, which has the freedom of irresponsibility; and it is not strange that we should refuse the most adventurous of all enterprises, namely, that of constructing schemes of thought which shall explain the Universe of Being. For, amongst civilized nations, England ranks with Rome - the great practical people of ancient times - in the comparative barrenness of its speculations. It has originated no systematic interpretations of reality able to command the allegiance and dominate the thought of other countries. Our greatest philosophers either have been critics or they have been defenders of foregone conclusions; they have not had in their disposition enough either of heroism or Quixotism to put the lance in rest against the world. Locke and Hume investigated the Human Understanding, and sought to make human thought more sober in its undertakings; Berkeley, the most boldly constructive of all our philosophers, worked in the service of theology, and sought premisses for its conclusions; Hobbes, the hardiest of all our thinkers, not even excepting Hume in...



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