

the sensory ganglia, and discover "internal senses" in the commissural fibres, and place the will and intelligence in the cortical substance of the cerebral hemispheres.

Others daringly attempt to define the seat of the mind or soul, perhaps as great a piece of folly, or presumption, or madness, as to try and find out by thought alone the nature of the Almighty; or whether he existed before time, or had Himself a beginning. Again, others will maintain that our earth is the only inhabited world in the universe, while some try to make us believe that the planets and stars are worlds with life, and are inhabited by rational and immortal beings.

Some divide the causes and symptoms of insanity into physical and moral, or bodily and mental. Physicians, jurists, and critics have expended much labour and ingenuity about the insanity of Hamlet—an ideal character—and are at variance whether his madness is real or simulated. Some of the arguments upon both sides are plausible and obvious, others absurdly fanciful and far-fetched, as much so as those of the sceptics, or lunatics, who endeavour to make us believe that Pisistratus compiled the Iliad and the Odyssey, and that Francis Bacon, Lord Verulam, is the author of the plays of Hamlet and Lear, and that his profound dramatic genius produced such characters as Lady Macbeth, Ophelia and Edgar, the poor *Tom O'Bedlam*.

The arguers upon both sides of a question, with their metaphysical dogmas, pathological and physiological deductions, who apply principles and display the slightest bias in the application of them, may each repel the idea of being mad, and may be ready to exclaim after the exposition of some startling theory or original idea :

"It is not madness

That I have utter'd: bring me to the test,  
And I the matter will reword; which madness  
Would gambol from."

The man who believes that

"Each of the stars is a religious house,  
And sees their altars smoke, their incense rise,  
And hears hosannas ring through every sphere,"

will have some non-believer in the "Plurality of Worlds" saying to him :

—— "to deal plainly,  
I fear thou art not in thy perfect mind."

There is an excellent story told of Hannibal, with which, doubtless, every reader of this journal is acquainted. It is this:—When an exile at a foreign court he was invited to attend a lecture; but