

The truth and correctness of the Newtonian system of the Universe, is not now questioned by one in a million, yet it has required centuries of investigation to establish it. Centuries of observation on the sidereal sphere had been made before the least idea of it was conceived; and when the first rude elements of a correct system were at last hit upon, they had to pass through the ordeal of centuries of opposition and ridicule—witness the struggles of Pythagoras—witness the struggles of Gallileo—witness the struggles of Copernicus. The true relation of the planetary bodies to each other have only become manifest in proportion as the mathematical sciences have been improved and made to bear upon astronomical observations.

Just so it is with the study of the human mind. It is beset with difficulties, and those difficulties have been regarded as insurmountable. Thus, although it has been frequently taken up, it has rarely been pursued; and consequently small progress has been made. It is however, the inevitable tendency of all study—(no matter on what subject)—to enlarge the capacity and strengthen the judgment; and every study has a tendency, in a greater or less degree, to develop and exhibit some peculiarity of the thinking faculty; and in this manner it is that the successful and persevering study of any branch of knowledge throws a ray of light on the *modus operandi* of the human mind.

Physiology has been of slow growth as well as mental Philosophy; it is only within the last fifty or sixty years that either of them has been successfully followed up. The philosopher had confined all his attention to mere manifestations, and results, and states of consciousness; and the physiologist had been content to plod away upon the nature of the animal functions, as exhibited by the animal organs—drawing all his conclusions from observations made at the dissecting table. But whatever may be the essence of the human mind, its phenomena are all—and invariably—manifested through the instrumentality of the animal organism; and therefore it is that a successful and correct system of Metaphysics can never