

The philosophical significance of Weber's law is the ground of main interest to us. That it is an established law of the relation of mind and body as respects sensation, that it confirms the general assumption that there is a universal and uniform connection between the mental and the physiological—these points we are constrained to admit, whatever be our more particular interpretation of the law itself. As to its meaning for our theory of the mind, and whether it has any such meaning, there is more room for difference of opinion, and three distinct interpretations are commonly held among psychologists. Each of these is advanced in answer to the question which Weber's law obviously suggests, *i.e.*, why is it that the relation of cause and effect does not hold between sensation and excitation: why is sensation proportional to the logarithm of excitation and not to excitation itself?

The first of these interpretations, that of Fechner, is that Weber's law represents the ultimate principle of connection between mind and body: that they are so constituted as to act upon each other in a logarithmic relation. It is of necessary and universal application wherever mind and body are brought into organic connection. In short, on this view the law is strictly *psycho-physical*. This interpretation has been very generally discredited, principally because it forbids all further research or explanation. Nothing is ultimate which may be explained, and if physical or mental reasons can be given—as the other two theories hold they can—for the disproportion between sensation and stimulus, then the assumption that it is ultimate is gratuitous. Fechner supports his view by two considerations, first, that the physiological theory, as stated below, is inadequate, and second, that the law holds in cases of nervous exhaustion. The latter point is met by the consideration that in cases of extreme exhaustion the entire series of stimuli is intensified by a given amount throughout, and when the exhaustion is not extreme, it corrects itself by the "parallel law" spoken of above.

Again, it is held, especially by Wundt, that the law is strictly *psychological*, that is, that the disproportion between