

In the latter days an old theory has been revived by modern physiologists, which is simply that all is matter, mind is only a secretion or a function of nerve activity, nerve action being causal, and mentality being the effect. The materialistic physiology of to-day insists upon the doctrine of monism, inasmuch as the whole man is only matter, and psychic power one of its manifold manifestations. This view led Fichtè, Spinoza and their school into pantheism; the Divine mind and man's not being analogous, but identical; and so matter was God and God matter. This pantheistic idealism is boldly stated in Shelly's "Queen Mab:"

"Infinity within, Infinity without,
Belie Creation.
The interminable spirit it contains
Is Nature's only God."

Upon this doctrine of unity foreshadowed by Lucretius in his wonderful poem "De Rerum Natura," and by Plato before the Christian era, is founded the monistic doctrine of Carpenter, Herbert Spencer, Darwin, Huxley, Romanes, Maudsley, Beale, Lewis and Tyndall.

It is interesting to note the history of these great movements of thought, and to see that after all, so much that is called new is only old opinions considered from new standpoints. The old writers labored among metaphysical speculations, and the latter based their opinions upon physical phenomena. It is worthy of observation in the history of psychology how extreme views not only were in antagonism throughout the centuries, but how they also came into juxtaposition at certain points of their history.

We can correctly label the landmarks of human history simply from a knowledge of the schools of thought in the various epochs of man's progress. This is the age of a renewed form of materialism based on biology, instead of existing in the shifting sands of metaphysical subtlety. At this hour, on the other hand, a school of thought exists which denies that brain functionates all mental processes. It denies that the personal I is only a congeries of functions, whose fountain head is a nerve molecule or monad. In fact, it refuses to believe in the existence of matter altogether, except as a phenomenon of mind, and rules the material world out of being, except as a concept.

Stallo, of Cincinnati, in his able work on "Concepts of