

consciousness the action is instantaneous. Generally from an eighth to a sixth of a second has elapsed. About one-half of the tenth is taken up in central brain processes, the remainder is taken up in conveying the impression to and from the brain. Now, if we wait till we distinguish the color of the light and then touch the key, we will be able to determine the difference between the time it takes to perceive the light and the time necessary to distinguish its color. This is called the "distinction time." The time required for hearing or seeing syllables, words, phrases, seeing colors, pictures, etc., can be measured, and the time varies as the complexity. It is found that it takes almost as long to perceive a single letter as it does to perceive a word of two syllables, which demonstrates that it is by the general form, and not by the individual letters, that we distinguish the word. Again, if the experimenter agrees with his assistant that if a red light be perceived the reaction shall take place with the left hand; and if a blue light, with the right. This gives them time to perceive a light which has already been measured, the time necessary to distinguish the blue and the red lights already obtained, and the time which it takes to make the choice of the hand to be used. This is called the "choice time." If the choice is one of two, the time is one-tenth of a second, and if one of ten, it is one half-second. The psychic process next measured was that of *association*—the calling up of one idea by another. This is a higher and more complex mental operation, and consequently requires more time—from one-half to three-fourths of a second. It has been well remarked that this offers one of the most delicate tests of character. The time differs with different individuals, and with the same individual the time for different associations differs. The habitual thought of the individual is revealed in those associations which take least time.

The strangest result is that intense attention actually makes one hear or see a thing before any sound is made or the object is in sight. If a pendulum rings a bell at a certain point in its swing, and the time between the beginning of the swing and