

It may be said that it makes mistakes; yes, but how do we know that? By reason. Reason is indispensable, but we must not overestimate what it can do for us. "The way to religious truth," said Pascal, "is through the heart: an evil spirit poisons everything." I should have said religious feeling, rather than religious truth, for the discovery of which reason seems our best guide; but, no doubt, character must profoundly affect belief: the ideas of God formed by a good man may be right or wrong, those of a bad man must be wrong.

Our theories can at present only be provisional. Marvellous as has been the progress of science, and wonderful the additions to our knowledge, they can only be regarded as tentative and preliminary; as preparing the ground, and providing materials for further discoveries; we have an immense amount to do, to learn, and to unlearn, before we can hope to reach the solution of the great problem of life, the great mystery of that wonderful universe in which we find ourselves, and in which it is our privilege to live.