

Probably Maudsley's is the acutest question that English Materialism has ever asked. For one, I agree most cordially with Professor Bowne, of Boston University, in his exceedingly keen and fresh work on "The Philosophy of Herbert Spencer," when he says (p. 104) that "this is the best thing the correlationists have said yet, and it is the best that can be said." Wishing the whole force of this argument to be appreciated, I have cited Maudsley at length, and am anxious that he should be read, not only in his new edition of his "Physiology of Mind," 1877, but in his essays on "Body and Mind," 1878. The latter work contains a suggestive paper on "Conscience and Organization."

Maudsley is not to be disputed when he says that the germinal points absorb inorganic matter, and that they transform it into other bioplasts and the various tissues. As their power evidently grows by acquisition of power from inorganic matter, who knows but that it commenced so? That is, who knows but that spontaneous generation may be a fact, or that there is any co-ordinating power behind these rhythmically moving co-ordinated germinal points? That is the objection; and that, I suppose, is the Malakoff of English Materialism.

5. *My reply is that the power of co-ordination is the subtlest power in life, that this power resides in the original germ, and that we do not know that it is increased by the growth of the living subject.*

I admit that chemical forces are drawn into the labyrinth of activity in the living tissue; but not that the co-ordinating power behind the bioplasts is increased. Very evidently that power is not changed, for the plan of an organism is the same from first to last, through its whole growth. When I define life strictly as the co-ordinating power governing the movements of germinal points, I do not know that this power is increased by the multiplication of the bioplasts.

6. We do not know that the weaver is any more skillful when the web is half woven than when he has merely set the web and first begins to throw the shuttle.

7. There is an increase in the amount of power manifested by the organism; but there is no increase in the co-ordinating power, which is what materialism never accounts for.

The weaver has just as much co-ordinating power when the web is arranged for the first stroke of the shuttle as he has after it is woven and the finished product is held up in its glory before admiring eyes. The co-ordinating power is what I call life; and in the germ of your eagle, your man, your lion, your swallow, that co-ordinating power has a law such that there cannot come out of the germ of the lion a swallow, nor out of the germ of the swallow a lion. Everything under the law of hereditary descent breeds true to its kind. I do not see that there is the slightest evidence that this co-ordinating power is increased. Therefore, the reply is all in the correct definition of life. Give us a statement of what life means, this phrase, the co-ordinating power which directs the movements of germinal points or bioplasts, and I will defy Maudsley to prove that the co-ordinating power is increased by the growth of organ-