

thinkers on both sides. The question cannot be decided by counting noses or blazoning great names. Patient, prayerful investigation of the facts is the only true course to pursue.

Look for a moment at the two theories of the origin of the Old Testament. A supercilious fling at Higher Criticism will not destroy it, nor will a contemptuous sniff at traditionalism overthrow that. A pedantic or dogmatic assertion will have no permanent effect either way. Let us not cling wildly to traditionalism like a dervish to his fetish, nor yet clutch nervously at untenable positions because they are buttressed up by names of great scholars and learned professors, but let us manfully and patiently examine the claims and sift the evidence for ourselves. The matter has been so threshed out and every side has been so fully presented to us that there is scarcely a scrap of information on the subject that is not as available to us as to the most learned. So that it now becomes a question of ability to sift and weigh evidence. With ordinary intelligence, patient investigation, frankness of mind and honesty of purpose every one of us may come to conclusions just as likely to be sound and correct as the most erudite. Fads are contagious in every line of thought, and it is not uncommon to find men in this country accepting as facts what in the very birthplace of these fads have never been regarded as more than theories, and still are acknowledged to be unproven. The cause of consumption is very generally attributed to the