

the ancients. The mind, from the nature of its relations with nerve force, may be looked upon as one of the dynamical agencies which are capable of acting on matter. This view is not inconsistent with the idea of its being an entity essentially distinct from the material substratum through which it manifests itself. Nor does it suppose an identity between it and any of the other forces. It merely expresses that mental power is one link in that chain of forces which operate throughout the material part of the universe. For this force does not act blindly, as the other forces, which produce the same effects, all other things being equal, when called into action. There is associated with it a *self-determining power* or *will*, which may, indeed, be suspended, but which acts independently of, and frequently in direct opposition to, all promptings from without. The suspension of this *volitional power*, which is one of the strongest proofs of its existence, is seen in cases of somnambulism, and that peculiar state into which a person is thrown when he is said to be "biologized," or "mesmerized." In these conditions the mind acts automatically, following out those trains of thought; and those only, which are suggested to it from without. Nervous energy is the intermediate force between the various physical and vital forces on the one hand, and the psychical force on the other. It has been arranged by the all-wise Creator that the energy of the nerves of special sense shall be excited by certain modes of force, and that the changes which the impressions made on the vesicular matter, when transmitted to the cerebrum, shall excite psychical action, and perceptions differing in kind result therefrom. Thus light, so long as it is present, excites the energy of the optic nerve—sound or motion, that of the auditory nerve, taste or motion that of the gustatory nerve, and so on. And we know that it is through these channels, as well as through the nerves of common sensation, that the mind acquires one class of perceptions, the perceiving power being a manifestation of psychical force. From what is