

to pull the link behind it, any more than the Thames as it flows under Westminster Bridge wills to wander in the manner that excited the admiration of Wordsworth."

"Surely," said Lady Snowdon, "we all of us understand that. If rivers and locomotives and bicycles, and, I suppose, we may add planets, all depended for their movements on their own private strivings, there would be no order in the Universe and no science of anything."

"Precisely," said Glanville. "And now I will ask all of you to do a very simple thing. Since science, as we have seen, shows us that we are ourselves part of the Universe, I will ask you to apply to ourselves—to our own minds—that obvious train of reasoning which you apply to all other phenomena. If our own minds are really results of the cosmic process—if they are merely so many points at which the mind-matter or substance of the Universe is nucleated into thought, feeling, imagination and memory—at first unconscious and then flowering into consciousness—our minds are the very reverse of what the world has been accustomed to think them. They are not the origins, but the transmitters and expressions of energy. They are pulled by motives as iron is pulled by a magnet, or as the link in a bicycle chain is pulled by the link in front of it. They are pushed by forces that flow through them from the universe, just as the piston-rod is pushed by the steam behind it; and to say that the process is controlled by our own sweet wills is as untrue of ourselves as it is of the water of the Thames. In a word, the individual mind has no trace or hint of that quality which thinkers like Kant or Hegel unhesitatingly assumed to be its essence. Yes, my dear Alistair, our minds are not first causes, which is the very thing which you and your friends persistently maintain that they are. They are causes no doubt; but they are causes only because before being causes they are effects. This is what all the pre-scientific philosophers denied—what they could not see—what they had no means of seeing—what science alone could show."