

It is undoubtedly right when a physician attends a sick person, that the sick person should unfold his thoughts, perplexities, frailties, and errors, in order that he may judge truly and fully concerning our situation. Therefore, the fullest confidence should be placed in the physician, by those who trust the lives of themselves and their children under him, and, it is of great consequence that nothing be kept back from him. It is with great difficulty that men conceal from physicians their true sentiments. In entering upon this science it is first necessary to explain the functions of the five senses. The organs of each sense are double. There are two eyes, two ears, and two nerves of smell, of taste, and of feeling. Yet it is generally understood that though the organs of each sense are double the consciousness of both impressions in each sense is single. We see with both eyes, hear with both ears, but the active state of the functions of the five external senses takes place only in one organ, and mostly the strongest. Experiment.—If we place a pencil or pen-holder between our eyes and the light, keeping both eyes open, and trace a right line between our eyes, the pencil, and the light, by then looking with both eyes the pencil should occupy the diagonal, and its shadow should fall on the nose. But the shadow falls always on one eye, on that eye which the person makes most use of in looking with attention. If we keep the pencil in the same position and shut the eye with which we did not look, the direction of the pencil remains the same, but, if we shut the eye with which we looked, the pencil appears removed far from its former direction. Again, if a person looks at a point a little distance from his eyes, both eyes seem to be in the same direction, toward the object, then let him shut his eyes alternately. If he shuts the eye with which he did not look, the other eye stands without the least motion, but, if he shut the eye with which he looked, the other eye immediately makes a slight motion, inward, to fix the point, and we find by investigation that the general actions of men prove that we look with one eye, and listen with one ear, for we generally direct one eye or one ear towards the object for our attention. The same may be said of smelling, tasting, and feeling, as the apprehension is but single to each sense. What has been said upon the five senses, I think is