

IDEALISM



IDEALISM, or Mental Science, is the philosophy that teaches *all is mind*. Everything in the objective universe is a formulated thought. Life is exactly as we have made it, and our environment is the outcome of our own ideals. Nature progresses ever upwards in the order of evolution ; but the "evolution" of the new science is one of mental forces, and not of dead matter. There is no dead matter. Every little atom thinks and is so much embodied intelligence. There is only a difference of degree between the clod of earth and the brain of an Emerson. The latter evolved out of the former, and the clod possesses in latency the powers of the philosopher's brain.

Our existence is made up of a multitude of experiences. This forms our character, which is our personality. The difference between the lowest form of life and a Jesus Christ is simply the difference of experience. Life has been called a school, and this is certainly what it is. Experience is our teacher ; and we learn in many ways. Even our sorrows, our sins, and our failures, all have their lessons if we but recognize them.

All is mind. This statement will appear strange to a person who looks at the subject superficially. Man's body, the clothes that he wears, the earth on which he lives, and the suns and stars in the heavens, are all so much Mind. What is mind ? It is that which thinks ; that which recognizes something. Mind is not merely a few cubic inches