

Now this is virtually conceding the difficulty of investigating and explaining the connection of life with, and its influence over, matter, and also, that the physical forces so far as they are known do not suffice to explain life processes—that although they enter largely into their production, there is beyond them, and distinct from them, another dynamical agency which is essential to the manifestation of vital phenomena.

Let us not, gentlemen, be unduly influenced by the specious theories of eminent men. The great object of the studies which will engage your attention is to conserve life. The term *life*, conveys to the mind of the physician the idea of a condition distinct from that of any physical force, or any combination of physical forces. It is, in his estimation, that *something* in man to which other forces are subordinate, and which makes the difference between the animated body that moves, breathes, thinks, and speaks and the dead inanimate form in which physical agencies have unrestrained operation.

As regards the existence of a spirit in man, allow me to quote what I have already said on another occasion :— That there is within us something which *thinks* and *wills*, and that it can exercise these faculties independently of influences, *ab extra*, will, I think, be conceded by all who have bestowed any—even the slightest attention to the operation of their own mind. It is no less certain, I conceive, that in the present state of existence, relations of the most intimate nature exist between this thinking immaterial spirit and organized matter. Indeed, so necessary to memory and a conscious existence does this connexion appear, many distinguished immaterialists have supposed that at death the soul takes its departure from the body in a subtle material vehicle ; this vehicle having been its seat while it remained in association with the material body of the man. The most noted modern philosophers who have held this opinion were Wollaston, Hartley, Cudworth and Clarke. The Pythagorans and Platonists taught it among