

and speak of mind as something given to us, quite independent of its organic basis. The first of these assumptions is this: that our mental life is always and everywhere accompanied by a process of nervous change. This is seen to be necessary to any method which involves the passage from mind to body or the reverse by the interpretation of effects. Which is cause and which effect, the mental or the physical change, or whether they both are effects of an unknown cause, is immaterial—to consider such a question would be to introduce what we have called the “speculative solvent.” It is sufficient to know that they are always together and that the change in one can be indicated in symbols which also represent the change in the other. The second assumption is based upon the first, viz., that this connection between mind and body is uniform. By this is meant what is called in general induction the uniformity of nature. Any relation sufficiently stable to admit of repeated experiment in the manipulation of its terms is in so far uniform. Experiment would be useless if the relation it tends to establish were not stable, since the result of such experiment would give no antecedent likelihood as to the result of others under similar circumstances. Experimental psychology, therefore, rests upon the assumption that a relation of correspondence—be it co-existence or causation—once clearly made out between a mental and a nervous modification, it must hold good under any and every repetition of the same experiment.

These two assumptions made, we have at once the possibility of a physical approach to the facts of consciousness. The result is a relative measurement of such facts in terms of the external stimulation of the nerves, in regular and normal conditions of the activity of attention.

Further, it is apparent that such a means of experimentation may become available either under artificial or under natural conditions, according as the nervous stimulation is due to our external excitation or arises from some unusual condition of the organism itself. All cases of brain or nervous disease, on the one hand, offer opportunities for boundless observation, the unusual mental manifestations being changes due to