

ed an increased sensibility, whether that arises from, the excitement of fever; exercise, or bodily pain, the ideas will pass with an increased rapidity, and make little impression on the memory. And when the body is in a torpid situation, heavy and oppressed the reverse will be the case. In young boys, where they are of a sprightly and lively disposition, the memory is rapid, and the ideas pass through the mind without affording time to contemplate them, and this among other causes produces that instability of action and immaturity of judgment peculiar to their age. The state of the mind at the time has a powerful effect upon the memory; when overloaded with cares or oppressed with important concerns, the mind is far less adapted for the exercise of the memory than when in a calm and tranquil state, so that the ideas can be contemplated with leisure.

The memory is a faculty which acts during sleep, but not correctly, and in such a state it is incapable of measuring time. When a person is roused from sleep by any sudden noise, or by being called he will waken up and the memory will recall the impression which the noise or calling made upon him, but it will appear as if it had passed long before. Neither is the memory subservient to the will during sleep, nor can it in this state present images in their proper order, as in a healthy person when awake. In short, although it may be said, and justly too that memory acts during sleep; it is at such a time only a faint and imperfect glimmer of impressions which have been previously made during our waking hours, presented without regard to order and completely beyond the controul of the will—differing in many respects from the operation of the same sense upon the person when awake.

The perceptions which make the strongest and most last lasting impressions upon the memory, are such as are strong, new and frequently repeated; or such perceptions as produce the sensations of pleasure or pain or effect the mind in any unusual way. This is the general idea with regard to these perceptions which operate most powerfully on memory; but there is an exception to this rule. A perception may act so strongly upon the feeling as to prevent the ideas being examined as they pass through the mind, and when they are gone, the rapidity with which they passed prevented the memory laying hold of them. I remember an instance of an affectionate mother seeing a darling child fall from a window. The perception which first impressed her mind was to rush down stairs after him, this she did and from the intervention of different impeding obstacles in her way some time must have elapsed before she could reach the street where the infant was. This she did, but no effort of memory could recall the way in which she came down: and although she might have descended by various routes, she could never recall to memory the way by which she went. On another occasion when in the depth of winter a neighbour's house caught fire; the mother with her two infant babes escaped from the flames, through the snow, to a house in the vicinity. On her way to the latter place she was met by the owner of the dwelling to which she was flying who cheered her on the way and conducted her to his house: next day she had no recollection of having met with him, or having seen him. From which I conclude