

other words, the engine regarded as a moving mechanism is the sum or result of a multitude of co-ordinated parts. With the human mind the case is just the same. All the vital parts of the organism are co-ordinated parts of an engine whose functions achieve that unity which we call the mind or the self, because they minister to, and practically culminate in, a special tract of the brain which is the organ of thought and consciousness. If we take any one of these ministering parts away, the content of conscience and the faculties of the self are diminished. Could we inhibit the action of all, the content of consciousness would be a void."

"But still," said Lady Snowdon, "the single consciousness would remain, ready to be itself again when the ministering faculties were restored to it."

"Would it?" said Mr. Hancock. "Would it? The consciousness would remain, you think, no matter what happened; and always remain a unit, so long as the man lived. Now as to the first of these points, next time you're going to sleep, watch, so long as you can, what is really going on within you. You will find that your consciousness, by slow or by quick steps, is actually melting away, is being disintegrated before its own eyes. As modern psychologists have all agreed in observing, sleep is so common a fact that till lately we have been blind to its meaning: but its meaning now is plain to us, and can never be obscured again. It means that when the brain undergoes a certain change, the conscious self is for the time annihilated. With some other change in the brain it practically reappears in dreams, minus many of its waking faculties: whilst another brain-change again restores it to its old integrity. If the brain-movements of the sleeper were only arrested by death, when first he became unconscious, and before he began to dream, his individual mind, his conscious personal self, would—so far as science can tell us—have disappeared for ever. Well, Lady Snowdon, so much for the permanence of the self. Now we'll tackle its unity. You think that so long as it lasts the self is a simple thing—not composite—not put together