

may not be as popular as you perhaps expect, we must remember that it is a lecture to be delivered before a Science Association, from the members of which we have the right to expect comprehension of detail somewhat minute.

Our knowledge of things external to us depends upon four powers possessed by us: 1. The power to perceive external objects; 2. The power to reproduce representations of them; 3. The power to vary them; 4. The power to judge them. In other words, we possess Perception, Memory, Imagination, Reason.

Let me illustrate this. On yonder plain is a pine tree. I direct my eyes toward it. I see it. My becoming aware of the existence of this tree depends upon my power of perception. I perceive the tree. I now close my eyes, but I can still see the tree, shadowy, not so brilliantly colored, ghost-like. I have a mental image of it. This mental image I can recall as often as I like. I can reproduce, in other words, the representation I have formed of the tree. In short, I remember it. This same process I may repeat in a number of instances with different trees, and thus become possessed of images of oaks, magnolias or willows, as the case may be.

Suppose now that I reproduce the mental image of the pine tree first seen, and change it to suit my fancy; for instance, I lop off a few branches, and bend and twist others, and finally replace the leaves of the pine tree with those of the oak. I can evidently do this with the mental image, and thus, as it were, create an image which, though composed of parts which separately may have their counterpart in nature, may not as a whole correspond to any external reality. The process of varying a mental image is termed imagination.

If now I compare this so formed image with other images, such as the magnolia, for instance, I note a want of correspondence between the two. I pronounce judgment of unlikeness between them. If, on the other hand, I compare the image I have imagined with that of the oak, I observe that my two images correspond as to leaves, and I pronounce judgment of similarity between them. This I can do with