

“ by nature’s laws for any offence against social order, and, if convicted, would be separated from Society as an abnormal man that must be taken care of, both for his own sake and the protection of society, and to return to society only on becoming a normal man.”

I have quoted for you the foregoing that you may learn that any opinions that may fall from me while delivering this lecture cannot be stronger than those I have already expressed, and which have been already published.

When we treat of man in his normal state, we simply treat of organized matter and its phenomenon, organs and their physiology or functions. In fact, let us treat of nature as a whole, of which man forms an integral part, and we have nothing to treat of but matter and its phenomena. In the vast universe that, in truth, we possess so little knowledge of, there may be some other entity besides matter, if so be that matter be an entity and not a phenomenon; but we don’t know it—we cannot find it out by physical research. As physical scientists, we only know and treat of matter and its phenomena, things of the natural order, and of this, I regret to say, our knowledge is very limited. Strange that the subject which is of the greatest importance to man should be the subject, of all others, man knows least of. In all the past countless ages man seems to have considered it his first duty to try and find out the supernatural, and they are now as near to the attainment of their object as they were millions of years ago. Doubtless there is a supernatural. I believe myself, most fervently, there is, because natural presupposes supernatural; in other words, *cause* supernatural for *effect* natural. Physical science leads us thus far, but no further. We cannot treat of the supernatural by means of the natural order, therefore, as physicists, we have to treat of nature and nature only—that is, of matter and its phenomenon. Some believe that matter differs in kind. I only find that it differs in degree, and that it is indestructible; and in this I am in accord with the greatest physical scientists or experimental philosophers in the world. Judging the degree of matter by its phenomenon, the highest degree is the nervous system in man, and as this system itself