

the justification of the application of measurement to psychological facts has come, not from theoretical considerations, for they were all opposed, and still are in many of the sacred books of the new idealism; but from practical attempts to do what philosophy declared to be impossible. That is, experiment has been the desired and only reagent; but once discovered it will not again be lost to this new chemistry of philosophy. It is true that theoretical justifications are now forthcoming of the application of experiment to consciousness, but they are suggested by the actual results—as all theoretical explanations should be—and were not in sufficient currency to hinder the influence of Kant's ultimatum, for example, that a science of psychology was impossible.

By experiment in this connection, is meant experiment on the nervous system with the accompanying modifications it occasions in consciousness. Efforts have been made in earlier times to experiment upon states of consciousness directly. Descartes deserves credit for such efforts and for the intimation he gives us, in his theory of the emotions, of an approach to mind through the body. But the elevation of such an approach to the place of a recognized psychological method was not possible to Descartes, Kant, or anyone else who lived and theorized before the remarkable advance made in this century in the physiology of the nervous system. And even as it is, many questions, which will in the end admit of investigation from the side of the organism, are still in abeyance till new light is cast upon obscure processes of the brain and nerves.

A little further reflection will shew us, that the employment of experiment in this sphere proceeds upon two assumptions which are now generally admitted and are justified as empirical principles, at least, by the results. They are both assumptions which the physical scientist is accustomed to make in dealing with his material, and their statement is sufficient to exhibit their elementary importance, however novel they may sound to those who are accustomed to think