

often a serious disadvantage to him, for when he desired to remember some particular point in anything he had read, he had to repeat the whole to find the association-link he wanted."

"But we are not looking for the good or the bad, the convenient or inconvenient, just at present," I continued to say. "The boy who stumbles in repeating his lesson shakes his head and begins again. The habit may be a bad one, but it is none the less instructive to ask why he does so. The scientist may say that in doing so the boy shakes up the memory-cells and re-establishes their protoplasmic continuity. And possibly he is correct; but our simple experiment in mind-wandering shows us, as far as we can know of a certainty, why the poor fellow begins at the beginning again. In a word, he has been over the memory-pathway under the guidance of the links: he has missed one of the links, and, like Dr. Johnson counting the lamp-posts on the street, he has only gone back to make sure by a second trial. The association-link between two ideas makes memory possible, and it is this fundamental element in memory which the teacher ought to examine carefully."

By this time we had drawn near the farm-house in which the school-mistress boarded, and the barking of the dog aroused me to the fact that I might safely allow her to pass to the house from the garden gate, where I bade her good-night.

"We may continue the subject at some other time," said I, as I parted from her. To tell the truth, I was a little afraid that I had again been talking over-much; but the smile on her comely face, as she shook hands with me, did not lead me to think that she would be an unwilling listener, whenever the opportunity of renewing the subject occurred.

"I shall certainly be experimenting with the association of my own ideas in the meantime," was her form of reply, as she passed up the garden-walk towards the front door.

There is a warmth that comes around the heart of an old man when he perceives that the part he has taken in any conversation has been appreciated. On the way back, the review of the lesson I had been trying to give on the memory came up before my mental vision, as the saying is, and I saw that I had a further duty to fulfil by following up the investigation, in order that I might be able to keep my promise of making a collection of the varieties of memory that had come under my notice during my long experience. Sympathy is a wonderful jockey. The steed growing old can be petted into doing some kind of work to the end; and, when I finally entered my study for an hour's meditation after my return, I felt that my friends had