

It is sufficiently accurate to say energy is the power to do work, and is of two kinds; that of position; and that of motion, force exerted through space. Energy of position means that a body is placed where the force is potential, as in a raised weight, a head of water, gunpowder, food. Energy of motion is force expressing the rate or speed at which any change takes place in matter. There is good reason to believe that all the various energies of nature, light, heat, electricity, magnetism, etc., are derived from different kinds of molecular motion. These motions are not self-existent nor essential properties of matter. Every one is natural, not, so far as we know, a product of unaided nature, but a sign of the Eternal Power—the Supernatural.

Physical science, speaking humanly, says the matter and forces of the universe are permanent and eternal. We do not find any essential cause in nature which can either create or annihilate matter and force. Causation is the will, creation is the act of God. Science, philosophy, religion, unite in declaring that all matter, every force, changes moment by moment, and enters other states, other places; and worlds die as individuals die. These, becoming as though they were not, do not actually cease; they take new shapes and relationships in other surroundings. The worlds waxing, waning, dying, are used again in new creations. The seen is always passing into the unseen, and the unseen enters the seen. There is a sort of border land, or transitive condition, between nature and that which is not nature, between the natural and the supernatural. In one sense, as Solomon said, "There is nothing new under the sun;" but, beneath the apparent immutability, incessant transference and conversion, by differentiation of the one primeval energy, give infinite variety of appearance. The sum of energies is constant; but the line of direction, as to every force, changes every moment. The total may be said never to vary, it is summed up in God. The differentiations, the applications, the display of phenomena, the manifestations of life, are ever varying modulations of eternal rhythm. The Eternal Energy gives all things to nature, and from this gift we cannot take anything away.