

larger than they had supposed from the idea obtained by the sense of touch." The sense of touch and the sense of sight, however, gradually became reconciled, and a new idea of the size of the objects was impressed upon the mind. At first the blind man of Bethsaida saw men as trees, walking; but afterwards he saw every man clearly. Dr. Murray says, after referring to the deceptions of our sense of touch: "Have we not in this the reason of the illusion which makes objects seem unexpectedly large to a congenitally blind man, when first restored to sight? Our ideas of magnitude depend on the extent of sensitive surface which seems to be affected by an object. Now, that extent is to be measured, not by its real dimension, but by the acuteness of the sensibility with which it is endowed. But this acuteness itself is proportional to the minute subdivision of the ultimate elements which form the essential organ of sensibility. For this reason, to touch itself a body seems to cover a larger expanse at a part of the organism where the papillæ and the corpuscula tactus and the tactile nerves are distributed in more refined minuteness and in greater multiplicity. Now, it is not necessary to institute an exact commensuration of the ultimate elements of organic sensibility in the hand and the eye respectively; it is sufficient to dwell upon the obvious fact, that the retina exhibits a structure adapted for a much more minute delicacy of sensation than the acutest part of the skin. Accordingly when a person who has been accustomed to form his ideas of magnitude from the impression of objects on the skin, is suddenly made to feel them affecting a much more acute organ, it is not surprising that he should see everything much larger than he had supposed from the idea obtained by the sense of touch." Our ideas of size come to us through the senses, and are therefore subordinate to our senses; so that one sense alone will not give us a correct sensation; nor will two; not even all our senses combined. Our ideas may be improved by the co-operation of all, but we are nevertheless still far from obtaining a correct idea of the size of objects about us.