

trace effects to their causes, and given certain conditions, we can predicate with absolute certainty, certain results. It is not so in medicine. As a rule we have no absolute and unchangeable data on which to base our calculations. The subject we have to deal with is man—a living, organized being—a wonderful and mysterious union of matter, life and spirit. In endeavouring to form an opinion as to the causes of the phenomena of disease we labour under the difficulty that we cannot by experiment accurately determine all the conditions necessary to produce the results which we observe. Numerous disturbing elements, also, are frequently in operation, which must be known and eliminated in order to arrive at correct conclusions. These are found to exist mainly in the differences which obtain amongst individuals as regards physical organization, functional activity, vital energy, nerve force and mental activity. The more thoroughly these differences are studied and known, the better will their value be estimated as disturbing causes, and the less danger will there be in their interfering with correct inferences. That physician, therefore, is the most accomplished and best fitted for the practice of his profession, who, to an extended knowledge of nature, and the forces which operate through and in matter, adds a familiar acquaintance with life processes and the influence of mind upon them. This I assert, notwithstanding the tendency of modern thought to ignore the idea of life and spirit, and to refer all vital and mental phenomena to the operation of physical forces. The philosophic mind at all times has been earnestly directed towards the elucidation of the mystery which involves the subject of the material and the spiritual. The greatest intellectual efforts have been put forth in the attempts made to solve the problem as to what is Mind, Life and Matter; and, as a result we have had numerous well-reasoned and plausible theories, many wild hypotheses, but nothing as yet which has conclusively overturned the teachings of inspiration. The so-called advanced school of philosophy of the