

SECTION THREE

THE HUMAN "MIND" THAT IS "NO-MIND"

"There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio,
Than are dreamt of in your philosophy" (*Shakespeare*).

"Entirely ignorant as we are, we certainly cannot venture to set bounds 5
to the mind's power. . . . There are many more things in the reciprocal action
of mind and organic elements than are yet dreamt of in our philosophy"
(Henry Maudsley, M.D., LL.D., F.R.C.P.).

The human or material man appears to be a marvellous being when even
a few of his limitations are destroyed, and so extraordinary are his seeming 10
powers, counterfeiting the infinite capacities of the one Mind, that many
think the real spiritual being exists in the material person. This is because
they confuse the individualised subconscious "mind"¹ with the real
spiritual man who is made in the image and likeness of God, cognisant of
and reflecting good only. 15

"Had science turned its attention to these phenomena with even a
fraction of the energy and study which such transcendental facts demanded,
we should have advanced far beyond our present limits of knowledge; but
instead it has chosen to simply ignore the facts as inconvenient"² (J. W.
Heysinger, M.D.). 20

The Subconscious Mind or Basic False Mentality.—"*A formidable
range of phenomena must be scientifically sifted before we effectually grasp
a faculty so strange, so bewildering, and for ages so inscrutable as the direct
action of mind*"³ (Sir William Crookes, F.R.S.).

All psychologists have recognised what has been called the subconscious 25
mind, although it can be more accurately designated the illusory, mortal,
subconscious, or basic false mentality. Dr. Schofield calls it the "un-
conscious mind," but if it were mind at all it would be conscious. Myers
calls it the "subliminal self," but the real self is spiritual. Schopenhauer
calls it "the better consciousness," but both conscious and subconscious 30
minds are equally bad. McCunn calls it "the soul," but this word in the
Bible, according to its context, nearly always means the human "no-mind."
The translation is wrong, through want of knowledge. It has also been
called the "principle of life," the "abdominal brain," the "communal
soul," and the "subliminal consciousness." The members of the Society 35
for Psychical Research generally speak of the "supraliminal" [conscious]
and the "subliminal" [subconscious] after the old psychologists. Some
speak of the "conscious" and "self-conscious" minds. T. J. Hudson, who
has given a good deal of time to the examination of the so-called "mind,"
writes in *Law of Mental Medicine*: "I prefer to assume that man is 40

¹ "Lower so-called mind" (*Science and Health*, p. 377, Mary Baker Eddy).

² *Spirit and Matter before the Bar of Modern Science*.

³ Presidential Address, British Association, 1898.

endowed with two minds. As a working hypothesis, I am logically justified in this assumption, for the reason that everything happens just as though it were true. I have chosen to designate one of the two minds as the Objective Mind [conscious] and the other as the Subjective [subconscious] Mind. It is entirely safe to say that not one fact has yet been brought to light, by the psychological experts of this or any other age, that disproves, or tends to disprove, the fundamental fact of a dual character of man's mental organism."

This "sub-conscious mind" or "basic false mentality" is recognised by theologians under the name "devil," by scientific men under the name "ether," and by the leading mental sects under the name "mortal mind." Professor Bergson, recognising some of the facts, says that consciousness transcends the brain and that, though each man is distinct from his fellows, the separation between individual consciousness may be much less radical than we suppose.¹ It is ignorance of this lower false mentality and its workings that has resulted in such troubles and limitations in the past. Now that we know how to think we can destroy evil thoughts, both in our conscious and subconscious minds.

Sense Impressions.—The sense impressions are absolutely wrong. Astronomy, optics, acoustics, and hydraulics, all prove this fact. We are now learning the significance of it. It was not so very long ago in the world's history that the leading scientific men thought that the sun moved round a flat earth. To come to later times, Dr. Pearson, when he first took up a globule of potassium and was told it was metal, exclaimed, "Bless me! how heavy it is!" simply from expecting it to be so, whereas potassium is excessively light. Professor Bennett tells us of a Scottish procurator-fiscal, who, on having to exhume a body, declared when the coffin appeared that he perceived a strong odour of decomposition, which made him so faint he had to leave. On opening the coffin it was found to be empty. All have at some time or other been entirely deceived by the senses.

HUMAN SO-CALLED "POWERS"

"The statement to which I am prepared to attach my name is this: That conjoined with the rubbish of much ignorance and some deplorable folly and fraud, there is a body of well-established facts beyond denial and outside any existing philosophical explanation, which facts promise to open a new world of human inquiry and experience, are in the highest degree interesting, and tend to elevate ideas of the continuity of life, and to reconcile, perhaps, the materialist and metaphysician" (Sir Edwin Arnold).

"If there be truth in even one case of telepathy, it will follow that the human soul is endowed with attributes not yet recognised by science" (Andrew Lang). All the so-called powers that man appears to exert are merely continually changing, false mental impressions, cinematographic pictures, having no power of any kind. Receiving these impressions has been vaguely called telepathy. "So much is certain—that in particular cases we can put out the feelers of our soul beyond its bodily limits, and

¹ Presidential Address before the Psychical Research Society, May, 1913.