

THE LAW OF SUBSTANCE

"The great question of the nature of ether," as Hertz justly calls it, includes the question of its relation to ponderable matter; for these two forms of matter are not only always in the closest external contact, but also in eternal, dynamic, reciprocal action. We may divide the most general phenomena of nature, which are distinguished by physics as natural forces or "functions of matter," into two groups; the first of them may be regarded mainly (though not exclusively) as a function of ether, and the second a function of ponderable matter—as in the following scheme which I take from my *Monism* :

THE WORLD (NATURE, OR THE COSMOS)

ETHER—Imponderable.	MASS—Ponderable.
<p style="text-align: center;">1. <i>Consistency</i>: Ethereic (<i>i.e.</i>, neither gaseous, nor fluid. nor solid).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2. <i>Structure</i>: Not atomistic, not made up of separate particles (atoms), but continuous.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3. <i>Chief Functions</i>: Light, radiant heat, electricity, and magnetism.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1. <i>Consistency</i>: Not etheric (but gaseous, fluid, or solid).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2. <i>Structure</i>: Atomistic, made up of infinitesimal, distinct particles (atoms) discontinuous.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3. <i>Chief Functions</i>: Gravity, inertia, molecular heat, and chemical affinity.</p>

The two groups of functions of matter, which we have opposed in this table, may, to some extent, be regarded as the outcome of the first "division of labor" in the development of matter, the "primary ergonomy of matter." But this distinction must not be supposed to involve an absolute separation of the two antithetic groups; they always retain their connection, and are