

the entire scheme of things, so far from wishing to

“shatter it to bits and then
Remould it nearer to the heart's desire,”

we should hail it as better and more satisfying than any of our random imaginings. The universe is in no way limited to our conceptions : it has a reality apart from them ; nevertheless, they themselves constitute a part of it, and can only take a clear and consistent character in so far as they correspond with something true and real. Whatever we can clearly and consistently conceive, that is *ipso facto* in a sense already existent in the universe as a whole ; and that, or something better, we shall find to be a dim foreshadowing of a higher reality.

EXPLANATORY NOTE ON CONSTRUCTIVE THOUGHT
AND OPTIMISM.

(Partly reprinted from “*Mind.*”)

It may be worth while to explain how it is that, to a physicist unsmitten with any taint of solipsism, a well-elaborated scheme which is consistent with