

as a whole, at another time as a disorderly collection of definite experiences, parts, or features; and lastly, some of these are clustered together and return or recur in the same order and arrangement.

Employing the terminology which we have used above, we may say that in both cases, in that of the physical as well as in that of the mental firmament, we may conceive the object of our contemplation either analytically or synoptically. We may look at single parts and features, isolating them from the whole, or we may look at them in that connection and arrangement which they naturally present to our first glance.

We may also combine the isolated and abstracted details of our observation into complexes or clusters which are different from those which they originally present to our gaze. This process is termed Synthesis, and it forms, together with Analysis, the leading method of scientific research. It is, however, important to note that although we desire, in the process of synthesis, to come nearer to the actual arrangement of the features which are given to us, we are never able completely, or even approximately, to recover the original aspect from which we started. This is gained only, if at all, not by thought in the narrower sense of the word, but by sight. It is Synoptical, that is, seeing things Together; it means being absorbed in, and at one with, the Whole.

The needs of practical life and the methods of science continually exact from us the abandonment of the Synoptic view, of the whole firmament of our thoughts. In the same way the history of astronomical knowledge shows how this started by a study of the simpler