

phenomenon of imitation appears to be under the older aspect which most psychologists, following the common-sense view, have been impressed by, and under that which we have adopted in this treatise.

According to the former view, imitation is the repetition within the stream of thought of something that has happened *outside* this stream of thought. This view locates the event which is imitated outside the imitating consciousness. Now, according to our view, everything that happens, be it a single sensation, a cluster of sensations, or a change of sensations, is simply one of the many experiences which constitute the flow of our conscious life ; it occupies a definite place *inside* the firmament of thought. Imitation is simply the repetition of what has been experienced, accompanied indeed by some indefinable conscious or unconscious feeling which we call effort.

If this view is correct, imitation reduces itself to repetition which is a more general trait in mental life ; and, we may add, the more general and frequent the further we go back in the mystery of the individual mind.

It is well known that children are very fond of repeating or having repeated to them actions or stories which have impressed them in a lively way. It is also well known that scenes, sounds, and melodies which have impressed us dwell with us and recur again and again, causing us increased enjoyment, or it may be haunting us in a distressing manner. Infants and children are taught not only to act but also to speak by repeating or imitating for themselves what they