

CHAPTER IX.

OF ACTIVITY.

I.

THE fact that the conscious or unconscious movements in our earliest days are checked either by persons surrounding us, or by lifeless things which we encounter, is one of the most important causes through which our practical or social sense becomes circumscribed, defined, and fixed in our own consciousness. And the further fact that this small sphere which becomes marked out within the large field of consciousness contains by far the larger proportion of feelings of pain or pleasure and of active or restricted changes, contributes more than anything else to give importance and prominence to this our practical or social self; throwing into the background most of those experiences which are not immediately connected with our moving and active personality.

Such are, *inter alia*, the wide and increasing regions of memory or of creative imagination and dreams of fancy.

We early become aware that this check to our conscious or unconscious movements is mostly due to the action of other persons in the physical or outer world.