

V.

Another important feature in the picture of the outer world presented to the developing mind of any individual person is the fact that space which contains everything belonging to the outer world, becomes gradually filled up.

This has, in the history of thought, a twofold significance. The popular and early conception of space as a void filled with discrete matter or phenomena has, to the scientific view, given way to the conception that space is a plenum, filled with an imperceptible something which has as much reality as the comparatively few things and events which are known to us directly through our sensations: this leads to the doctrine of the continuity of that substance which is supposed to fill space.

The effect of this view of the constitution of the outer world on the things and events of the inner world is still more important. Whereas the primordial aspect of the world of Thought or the firmament of consciousness is that of a continual change and alternation of physical or outer sensations, and of inner feelings and manifold experiences, the scientific view which is merely an extension and completion of the common-sense view has gradually crowded out the purely internal experiences, and left in the physical firmament no room for those things and events which are of personal interest to each one of us, but differ with different persons. The firmament of Consciousness has been replaced during by far the greater