

CHAPTER XIV.

THE WORLD OF FREEDOM OR OF VALUES.

I.

IN an earlier chapter of this treatise we showed how the totality of existence which we have identified with the field or firmament of consciousness so far as every one of us is concerned, undergoes in the course of life a change which consists in assigning to certain experiences within this totality an additional form of existence which we call Reality.

That selected portion which we call the real World becomes distinguished from and frequently opposed to the permanent background which, though it exists as certainly as the other, is not considered by us to possess Reality. We saw that there are various forms and degrees of this Reality or more pregnant existence; the main criterion of all that we call Real being is the tacit or overt conviction that it exists in a similar manner for other persons besides ourselves.

The whole complex of such realities might be called the World of Things, were it not that we are accustomed to apply this term only to complexes of perceptions in Space and Time. It is quite true that we use the word Thing frequently also for experiences which do not