

ter, is to extend the meaning of the term matter to that with which we cannot perceive it has any relation. All that we know of matter has regard to space: nothing that we know of the properties and affections of mind has any relation whatsoever to space.

A similar incongruity is contained in the proposition that thought is a *function* of the brain. It is not the brain which thinks, any more than it is the eye which sees, though each of these material organs is necessary for the production of their respective effects. That which sees and which thinks is exclusively the mind; although it is by the instrumentality of its bodily organs that these changes take place. Attention to this fundamental distinction, which, although obvious when explicitly pointed out, is often lost sight of in ordinary discourse, will furnish a key to the solution of many questions relating to perception, which have been considered as difficult and embarrassing.

The sensations derived from the different senses have no resemblance to one another, and have, indeed, no property in common, except that they are felt by the same percipient being. A colour has no sort of resemblance to a sound; nor have either of these any similarity to an odour, or a taste, or to the sensations of heat, or cold. But the mind, which receives these incongruous elements, has the power of giving them, as it were, cohesion, of comparing them with one another, of uniting them into combinations, and of forming them into ideas of external objects. All that nature presents is an infinite number of particles, scattered in different parts of space; but out of these the mind forms individual groups, to which she gives a unity of her own creation.

All our notions of material bodies involve that of space; and we derive this fundamental idea from the peculiar sensations which attend the actions of our voluntary muscles. These actions first give us the idea of our own body, of its various parts, and of their figure and movements; and next teach us the position, distances, magnitudes, and figures of