

to the object. All that we can distinguish as to the locality of the 'visual appearance which an object produces, is that this appearance occupies a certain place in the field of vision; and we are taught, by the experience of our other senses, that this is a sign of the existence of the external object in a particular direction with reference to our own body. It is not until long after this association has been established, that we learn, by deduction from scientific principles, that the part of the retina, on which the impression causing this appearance is made, is on the side opposite to that of the object itself; and also that the image of a straight object is curved as well as inverted. But this subsequent information can never interfere with our habitual, and perhaps instinctive reference of the appearance resulting from an impression made upon the upper part of the retina, to an object situated below us, and *vice versâ*. Hence we at once refer impressions made on any particular part of the retina to a cause proceeding from the opposite side. Thus, if we press the eye-ball with the finger applied at the outer corner of the orbit, the luminous appearance excited by the pressure is immediately referred to the opposite or inner side of the eye.

If we place a card perpendicularly between the two eyes, and close to the face, the card will appear double, because, although each surface is seen by the eye which is adjacent to it, in the direction in which it really is with regard to that eye, yet, being out of the limits of distinct vision, it is referred to a much greater distance than its real situation; and consequently, the two sides of the object appear separated by a wide interval, and as if they belonged to two different objects. Many other examples might be given of similar fallacies in our visual perceptions.

All impressions made on the nerves of sensation have a definite duration, and continue for a certain interval of time after the action of the external agent has ceased. The operation of this law is most conspicuous in those cases where the presence or absence of the agent can readily be determined. Thus, we retain the sensation of a sound for some