

The German language uses the word *Anschauung* to denote an attitude of thought which is only awkwardly rendered by the English words "Sight" and "Intuition." It implies that we look at things, physical or mental, in their natural connection, as they present themselves to our total view.

Goethe, who was gifted with an unusual poetical as well as scientific insight into Nature, complained that naturalists were too much bent upon analysing and dissecting the objects of their study; but his remarks were little heeded at the time. Somewhat later, Comte in France, when approaching, in his Course of Lectures on Positive Philosophy, the biological sciences, insisted on the different aspect of the living as compared with the lifeless creation, remarking that the former demanded the *vue d'ensemble* for its comprehension. We may render this term which gives a more definite expression to Goethe's idea by the word Synopsis (seeing together), contrasting this attitude of the reflecting mind with the combined process of Analysis and Synthesis.

If Comte found it necessary to recommend this *vue d'ensemble* or Synoptic View to students of living things, it is still more necessary to resort to it in the study of the Inner Life. Introspection is primarily Synoptic and only secondarily Analytic and Synthetic.

We may, therefore, lay it down as a first rule for any introspective inquiry that it must regard its object synoptically.

This Synopsis, or seeing Things Together and not in isolation, applies to two different methods which were introduced into the study of Nature in the middle of the