

method, which is Introspective, is the one to which we shall give special attention in this Treatise.

There is a third aspect of mental phenomena which has been urged in modern studies of human nature, and which we may also bring under the general head of the Synoptic aspect.

The individual mind of any adult person is usually considered to be self-contained and independent of the minds of other persons. It is forgotten that this independence or individuality has only been gained in the advancing years of adolescence, and that even then it is to a large extent only apparent. It is impossible for me in my thoughts to isolate myself completely from the thoughts of other persons with whom I associate, and any train of reflection which I may carry on ever so secretly and in seclusion is very largely influenced by the thoughts of others, which are in many ways communicated to me through personal intercourse or through spoken and written words. Still more is this influence of other minds noticeable in younger persons, and the further we go back in our individual history, the more we find ourselves living in an atmosphere of feelings, impressions, and thoughts derived from others, which surrounds us in the various and changing circles in which we move from the nursery, through the life of the home and family, on to that of the school and college. This influence depends on what has been termed intersubjective communion.

This intersubjective communion of different minds with each other lasts all through life, though in a decreasing degree, so that it may be neglected if we deal with the adult mind; but it cannot be left out of