http://www.geology.19thcenturyscience.org/books/1920-Merz-Fragment/README.htm

CHAPTER X.

OF THE PRINCIPLES OF EXACT SCIENCE.

I.

We have already learnt that the development of the intellectual powers of the human mind depends upon a selection of that class of sensations which we term physical. This selection is not due only to the greater clearness and permanence of certain of these sensations, but quite as much, if not more, to the fact that we very early learn that we have them in common with other persons who surround us.

The great multitude of these sensations, all clearly marked off and located in their spatial arrangement, is not only largely increased by their being retained and reproduced through memory, but quite as much through the further circumstance that we learn from other persons a great deal which we could not possibly gain by ourselves alone. We are apt to forget that the picture of what we term the outer world, that is, the totality of physical sensations, is neither a result of our own experience alone, nor a possession proper to any one of us independently. The image of the outer world as presented to the synoptic view is really a collective result of the