

Axioms and Definitions, a stupendous edifice of purely abstract thought has been raised, and this construction has been successfully employed in ordering and enlarging natural knowledge.

The consequence of this wonderful creation of the human mind has been the prominence which scientific methods have acquired in popular estimation, even among many persons who are quite unable to follow in detail and practise these methods.

On all sides we now hear that problems in the most various departments of knowledge must be scientifically treated. And yet amid this frequently exaggerated cry for scientific method and higher criticism, one important fact has been often overlooked. No process of scientific or logical reasoning has proved lastingly convincing unless it has led to results which are in some form verifiable through the immediate evidence of our senses, including under this term not only the so-called physical senses, but also the emotions, desires, hopes, and, in general, the satisfaction of the higher as well as of the lower demands of human nature.

Thus, ever so ingenious a scientific theory, however plausible or enticing it may be made by its literary setting, will lose, in the long-run, its seductive charm if it does not lead to the discovery of facts which we can immediately experience, observe, and arrange within the existing order of knowledge.

Sight is everywhere not only the beginning, but also the consummation of every process of convincing thought. Only very rare minds occupying exceptional positions among ordinary men are capable of resting satisfied with purely abstract reasonings: the mul-