

Hamilton, [William]

Publication/Creation

19th Century

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/xghvf3xx>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution, Non-commercial license.

Non-commercial use includes private study, academic research, teaching, and other activities that are not primarily intended for, or directed towards, commercial advantage or private monetary compensation. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

I 238

ATHENAEUM CLUB

PALE HALL S.W.

Attention "is consciously voluntarily
"applied under its law of limitation
"to some determinate object; it is
"consciously concentrated"

2421. "the greater the number of objects
among which the attention of the mind is
distributed, the feebler & less distinct
will be its cognisance of each"

How many objects can the mind
simultaneously know, not with vivacity
but without absolute confusion?

Charles Bonnet (*Essai de Psychologie*
C. XXXVIII) says 5. Abraham Tucker
(*Light of Nature* C. XIV §5) says 4.

Jestutt-Tracy (*Ideologie* I, p 453)
says 6. [see more notes of author]
Hamilton thinks 5

(What a man like he could attend to)
[His view how just if circumscribed the scope]
[When the prospect is near is right]

257.-8 List of great people who ^{plv}
think genius lies in power of attention
[I say no - a madman may be a
genius - attention & a large field
view as I think the requirement of
great ability comprehensive]

Malebranche Traité de morale
partie I chap V § 4 "the attention
of the intellect is a natural power
by which we obtain the enlightenment
of reason." Hamilton strongly uses
the 5th chapter to be read & very
highly praises Malebranche

(see 358) [The rate of adding up figures
by an expert would be a good experiment
to show the ~~rate~~ time occupied by
successive mental acts. - It would
show a whole lot of them. This can
be done by eye & the operator who
forgot the steps]

(368 is a fair argument with ^{P2}
effect that as the minimum worth
is composed of hearts each of these
separately must act in concert
- no. the nerve work is not
set a going until the secretant
has reached a sufficient magnitude
& overturn the Equilibrium)

375 Difficulty of observing
the mind of one self

