

MS of "A Scientific Problem" by H Montagu Butler

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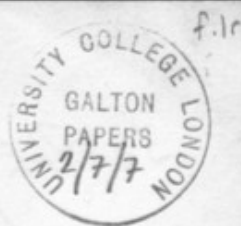


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Mental action

Rev. Dr. Montagu Butler

A Scientific Problem.



To investigate the action of the mind when we are writing: e.g.

1. The rapidity ^{in a well formed thought out}
^{a little faster actually than we write - sketch}
^{writes in pencil, good composition}
2. The degree of consciousness
3. The process of thought at the moment as compared with the drawing (conscious or unconscious) upon past thought or feeling.
4. The explanation of certain phenomena, e.g.
 - a. The putting into literary shape a number of facts previously known & weighed, e.g. a Report on the Finance of a Hospital.
^{as in continuing the fore-facts - the mental point of light}
 - b. The sitting down to write an essay or a sermon without having fixed the subject, & then writing at full speed the whole time, wondering as you write why the thoughts come to you. ^{as in the fore-facts}

5. The different mental process of composing and criticizing either our own or another's work.

6. Fits of comparative ease in composing, e.g. a month at a time.

7. Superiority of the product if one can begin to think while writing!
Mental arithmetic - if you let yourself think, you fail.

8. How far quiet, silence, other favourable circumstances important.

9. Hours of work - how many at a time, what part of day.

10 Attitude of body. lying, sitting, head bent, &c F.V



Unconscious cerebration
(Montagu Butler)

(9)

