

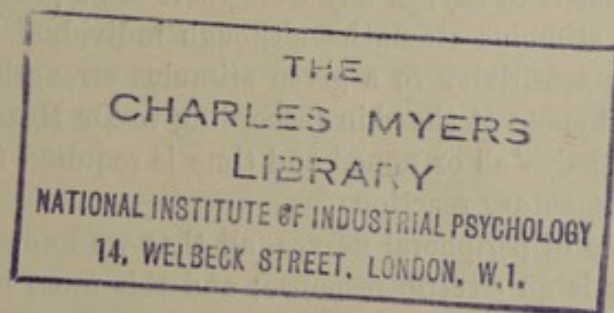


THE CONNECTION OF NERVOUS AND
MENTAL PHENOMENA

BY C. B. HYMEL

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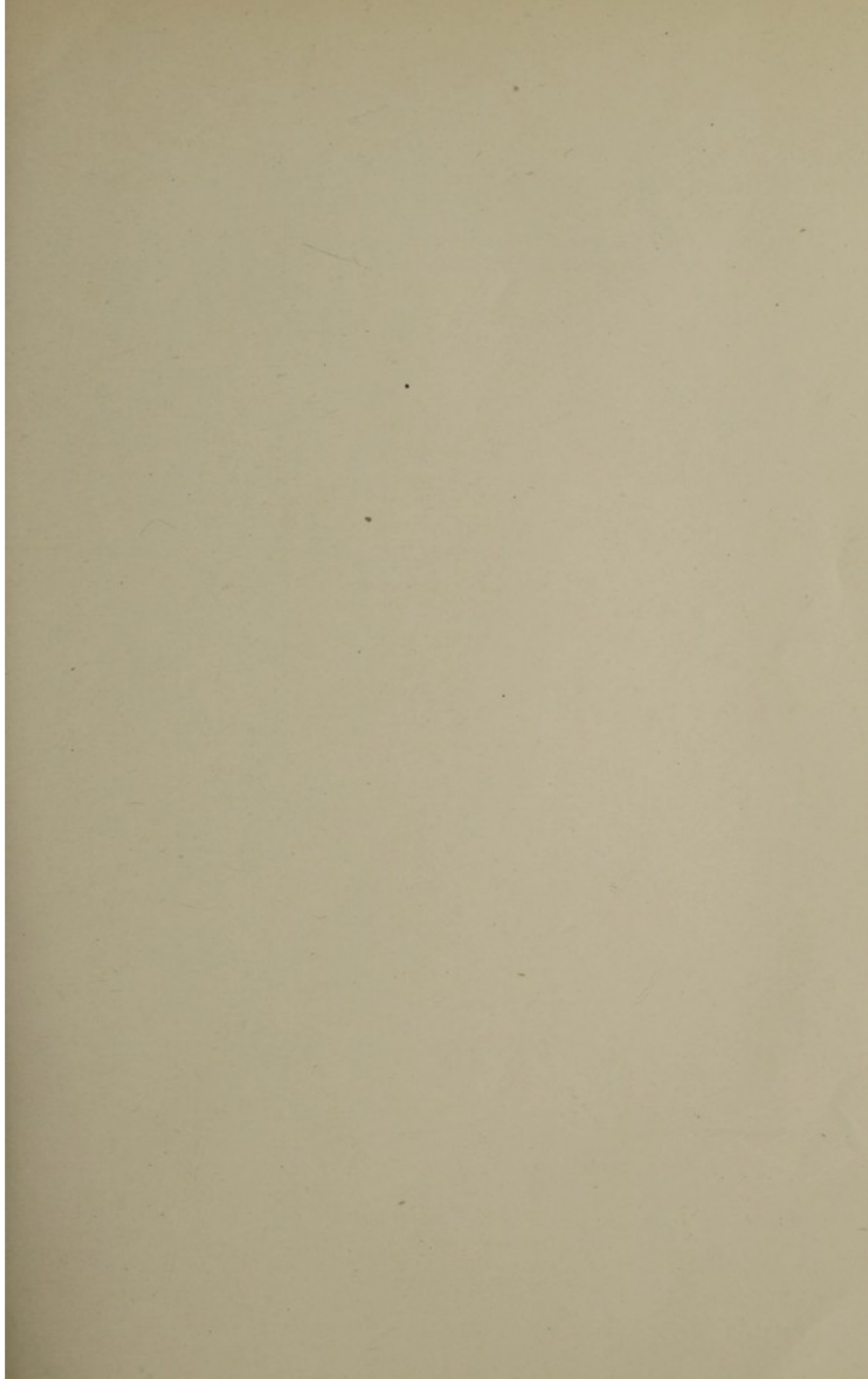
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I see no reason why we should not throughout identify central nervous energy with mental energy—Dr Head's 'physiological vigilance' with the psychologist's 'mental activity.' I find no difficulty in supposing that this 'psycho-neural' energy, as I would term central nervous energy, assumes a more distinctively mental form as higher, wider and more plastic nervous areas are brought into function.

The only consciousness about which we know anything is self-experience. It is here that we should expect the highest expression of what I have termed 'psycho-neural energy.' Self-consciousness becomes fundamentally the activity of a hierarchy of the highest nervous elements that are concerned in the most important past and present (? and future) responses of the organism to its environment which inter-relatedly are susceptible of control. Examining the three modes of consciousness we find that the conative disappears when practice and habit no longer necessitate control and direction by that integration of psycho-neural activities which we call 'the self'; that the affective mode also always implies conflict with and inhibition of antagonistic reactions; and that the cognitive mode likewise involves alternative reactions; were the response of the individual to a given stimulus fixed, nothing would be served in his becoming cognitively conscious of it.







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