

terminal organ, the connecting fibre or nerve, and the central or percipient organ situated somewhere in the brain. How are these different parts of the combined apparatus anatomically constituted, and what are their respective physiological functions—in particular, where does the specific energy reside? The answer to these questions as regards not only the process of seeing, but likewise that going on in other sense organs, involved an enormous amount of detailed anatomical and physiological, analysing and experimenting work. With this work many great names are connected—first of all, Helmholtz, who in his two great treatises on ‘Physiological Optics’ and ‘Physiological Acoustics,’<sup>1</sup> has laid the foundation of those two psycho-physical sciences which bring us nearest to an understanding of the interaction of mind and body. Like Young before him, for whom he expresses the greatest admiration, Helmholtz had approached the study of nature from the side of medicine: from this he was, by the peculiarity of his genius, driven to mathematico-physical studies on the one side, to psychological on the other. The exact methods of the mathematical, the experimental methods of the medical sciences; the mental analysis of Kant and Fichte, as well as the logical methods of J. S. Mill, were equally familiar to him. Inventions of his own, like that of the eye-mirror, or of others, like

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Helmholtz.

<sup>1</sup> ‘Die Lehre von den Tonempfindungen; Physiologische Grundlage für die Theorie der Musik,’ 1st ed., 1863. ‘Handbuch der physiologischen Optik,’ 1867, 2nd ed., much enlarged. A succinct and very lucid exposition of the

principal contents of those two great treatises, by an authority in the same domain of science, will be found in chaps. x. to xii. of Prof. J. G. M’Kendrick’s volume in the “Masters of Medicine” Series on H. von Helmholtz, 1899.