But, however important such distinctions may be for the philosopher, the man of science in his practical task is obliged to put them aside and to make the best of whatever evidence experience, observation, and experiment may supply. Out of such studies space and time have emerged, usefully defined by mathematical criticism as substantial parts of the edifice of science.[1]

There is no small difficulty in the exposition of modern critical results regarding space and time, but fortunately there is little need of considering them on the present occasion. For in spite of all assaults of philosophers and mathematicians space remains for practical purposes more certainly than ever the Euclidian space of the ancients, only it has become somewhat richer in characteristics. And time is now and forever that which flows equably, wholly independent of all else, though almost all else is dependent upon time. It is Euclidian space in which the earth moves and describes its ellipse, parallel rays of light never do meet in our practical experience, and our crystals

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[1] The works of Poincaré, "La Science et l'Hypothèse," "La Valeur de la Science," and "Science et Méthode," published by Flammarion, may be consulted for a popular statement of such mathematical studies.