

**LECTURES ON DISEASES OF THE  
NERVOUS SYSTEM. SECOND SERIES.  
SUBJECTIVE SENSATIONS OF SIGHT  
AND SOUND, ABIOTROPHY, AND  
OTHER LECTURES**

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Lectures on Diseases of the Nervous System. Second Series. Subjective Sensations of Sight and Sound, Abiotrophy, and Other Lectures by Sir William R. Gowers

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LECTURES ON DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM.  
SECOND SERIES.

*H. R. Langue*  
12-1904.

# SUBJECTIVE SENSATIONS

OF

## SIGHT AND SOUND, ABIOTROPHY, AND OTHER LECTURES.

BY

SIR WILLIAM R. GOWERS, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S.

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## PREFACE.

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The following Lectures, which have appeared in print at various times, have been carefully revised. The first lecture has been throughout rewritten, and its substance rearranged, in the light of later experience, which has not, however, modified its chief conclusions. These can only be extended by the collection of many other facts observed with care and recorded with precision. To promote such observations is one object of its republication. The second has also been carefully revised, and will likewise, I hope, promote more systematic study of a symptom which is apt to be passed over as too common to merit attention. Of the other lectures I need only say that the last, "On the Use of Drugs," although given some years ago, seems to need no change in consequence of fresh knowledge. There is indeed a prospect that our ultimate conceptions may be thrown into crucible, and recast by the influence of ardent thought, through the discoveries regarding radio-activity, and the possible nature of the elementary constituents of matter. But we must remember that these do not alter the coarser facts we were previously able to perceive. All that has been demonstrated regarding atoms and molecules, chemical affinities, and chemical compounds and combinations, and the relation of these to energy, latent or released, remains true, whatever may be discerned of the ultimate nature of the processes.

W. R. G.

864:37





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# SUBJECTIVE SENSATIONS OF SIGHT AND OF SOUND

AND

## OTHER LECTURES.

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### LECTURE I.

#### SUBJECTIVE VISUAL SENSATIONS.

BEING

#### THE BOWMAN LECTURE,

*Delivered to the Ophthalmological Society of London, on Friday, June 14th, 1895.*

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[The substance of this lecture has been rearranged, and it has been rewritten throughout.]

*Mr. President and Gentlemen:*—The name of Bowman is associated alike with physiology and ophthalmology. The subject I have chosen for this lecture, given in grateful honour of his memory, combines these two subjects with which that memory is linked. Apart from the results he achieved, already dimmed by the mists which so quickly veil the past, his name brings before us a singular grace of character, and strenuous pursuit of the highest standard of scientific work, a standard we may not hope to reach, and yet may do better than otherwise if we keep it clearly in our view.