YOU ask how one may reconcile one's consciousness with the idea of endless testings and how to acquire that vigor of spirit which enables one to accept such a systematic realization day by day.

Testings, however, are inevitable in everyday life, and even inanimate objects undergo testing. Houses are frequently overlooked by the architect or engineer. A ship has to be overhauled every time it leaves port. A machine has to be frequently inspected to prevent accidents. These examples would seem to suggest that man's spiritual condition should also be kept under constant supervision. His physical condition is noted by the doctor. Many people have their family doctors who continually study their condition and keep an eye on them, not only when they are ill. It is very important for the doctor to be able to discern ailing symptoms beforehand so that he can prevent infection by prophylactic measures.

"As in heaven, so on earth." As in the body, so in the spirit. The analogy of infection and reaction is a very close one, for just as a feeble and exhausted body is subject to infection so is an unsteady spirit subject to dangerous attacks.

The body may by, good luck, avoid contagion, but the effect on the spirit of invisible and inscrutable factors is much more complicated.
Any coarse food such as meat lays one open to invisible attacks. Every word of abuse is a gateway for the evil ones, and every form of treachery an invitation.

If the conduits of good are immeasurable, the dark conduits, although limited, are yet very extensive.

We do not try to shout from one country to another but radio waves can convey our speeches.

And it is the same in the spiritual realm where an invisible radio calls, attracts and broadcasts its commands.

He who has plunged into evil will shudder at such benign warnings, but if he has established in himself a concession for evil then he will open up a field of action for the dark forces.

Thought and will are active every instant, and there is hardly a moment when man remains inactive. Some imagine that when they are motionless and silent or repeating a prayer, nothing is really happening. In the spiritual world, however, all sorts of important actions are taking place, and a sensitive apparatus would probably show a continual palpitation of the spirit. It would be seen how the spirit, in its essence, is always striving higher but darkness and heaviness are ever striving to drag it down.

The unchanging movement of the spirit goes on amidst all our daily activities and trivial routine and, in this way, the spirit is ever being tested.

It is said "All worlds are constantly being tested" and we may consider every part of the world down to the smallest particle to be in a constant process of testing.

There can be nothing burdensome to the consciousness in such continual testing. It is said that our planet was exposed this year to a great danger narrowly escaping on May 26 a collision with a gigantic meteor. The danger, however, was practically ignored by the world at large. Although there is scarcely a moment in life when we are not exposed to danger, none the less, people continue to act, work, grieve and rejoice just the same.

In the July number of the Twentieth Century our friend Jagadisvarananda sketches an outline of the contemporary world. He shows that modern life is largely taken up with distractions and that these are gradually degenerating. People are abandoning conscious thought and striving for some sort of narcotic which will relieve them from thinking about the fundamental questions of life.
Where the desire is for pleasures and for gold, there are natural and special testings.

If such coarse pursuits as money and pleasure easily tyrannise over the human consciousness, nevertheless, these, likewise, are subjected to testings.

Where coarseness and foul language agitate a man the needle of the spiritual apparatus is particularly wavering.

There are many who do not care to admit that they are undergoing testing which they consider to be a sort of tyranny. And yet testing is nothing more than the application of one's spirit to the measure of truth.

If the spirit itself indicates a lower impulse, this can hardly be taken as a compulsion, for we should remember that the spirit always indicates with absolute precision the measure to which it responds at a given moment. It has often been said that everyone is his own judge and makes his own destiny. Hierarchy has also been spoken about together with the spirit of constructiveness.

Self testings occur naturally to everybody. The normal-minded man knows what amount of food he requires, but he who is addicted to gluttony ignores it and, in this way, injures himself.

A healthy organism insensibly carries out the most complicated tasks, but if the balance be disturbed he will be warned through the senses.

It is the same with the testings of the spirit, and all who have not relegated spiritual activity into the darkness know and recognize the call of the heart.

The man will be warned provided he listen to such admonition. The heart murmurs but it is not everyone who hears its urgent call.

In a certain degree of ignorance man can even become hardened to the call. He may even do violence to his heart and this is one of the causes for many forms of heart disease.

By spiritual impulsions people can also injure those near them whose radiations are akin. If man has no right to harm his own nature, if any form of suicide is to be condemned, then the killing of others by a malignant consciousness must also be condemned.

If there is the so called deadly eye, there is also the acute will, and many pernicious ocular arrows are, in this way, being sent into space.
Knowing this we will not despair but reinforce the shield and create a new source of courage and vigour. Let us not be afraid but fond of such testings, for we shall be strengthened by them. Obstacles are blessed, and even more blessed the testings which temper the strongest blade.

To grow to love anything means that we take it into our consciousness, and to love a concept means that we shall transform and apply it to life.

If any one sees a person drooping with terror in the face of testing, let him invigorate him with the joyful consciousness of a newly tested shield.

It has been said "I shall receive all arrows in my shield, but I shall despatch only one". Everything is tested, all worlds are undergoing testing. This is not a system of terror, but a broadening of consciousness, a fountain of vigour, a successful advance.