

variation may be termed *the law of individual adaptation*, or the important proposition that all organic individuals from the commencement of their individual existence are unequal, although often very much alike. As a proof of this proposition, I may at once point to the fact, that in the human race in general all brothers and sisters, all children of the same parents, are unequal from their birth. No one will venture to assert that two children at their birth are perfectly alike : that the size of the individual parts of their bodies, the number of hairs on their heads, the number of cells composing their outer skins or epidermis, or that the number of blood-cells are the same in both children, or that both children have come into the world with the same abilities or talents. But what more specially proves this law of individual indifference, is the fact that in the case of those animals which produce several young ones at a time—for instance, dogs and cats—all the young of each birth differ from one another more or less strikingly in size and colour of the individual parts of the body, or in strength, etc. Now, this law is universal. All organic individuals from their beginning are distinguished by certain, though often extremely minute differences, and the cause of these individual differences, though in detail usually utterly unknown to us, depends partly or entirely on certain influences which the organs of propagation in the parental organism have undergone. Many naturalists consider individual variation as the most important, or even as the exclusive cause of the transformation ; thus, for instance, August Weismann, who regards it as the direct consequence of sexual propagation. Amphigonous Transmission, according to him, directly affects the individual adaptation. But