

by it, assumes an essentially different form. For in this case, of course, there is no question of the formation of tissues; the formation of the independent cell that remains independent is determined partly and directly by the influence of the outward conditions of existence, partly by the counteraction exercised by the Plastidules or Micells—the active, living plasma-molecules of the cell. We may even assume a constant struggle for existence between these latter; and Roux has shown what great importance has to be ascribed to it in regard to change of substance and the nutrition, hence also as regards adaptation and the formation of the elementary organism. However, this *molecular selection* is just as hypothetical, and as little demonstrable, as the *molecular structure* which we have to assume (in some form or another) for the plasma. As an hypothesis it is indispensable, and, moreover, both as regards the independent one-celled Protista and for the dependent tissue-cells of the Histones.

The more deeply we have recently penetrated into these elementary relations of organic life, and the more we have become acquainted with their intricate correlations, the more highly we have learnt to appreciate the value of the theory of selection, and the grander appears to us Darwin's philosophical and scientific work. For by founding the theory of selection on the struggle for existence, he not only discovered the most important cause of the formation and transformation of organic forms, but he at the same time gave a conclusive answer to one of the greatest philosophical problems, viz. the question as to *how arrangements serving a purpose can arise mechanically without causes acting for a purpose.*