

inquirer is losing daily more and more those elevated views, those points of condensation, those unifying and idealising aspects on which, as it seems to us, the command and grasp of knowledge depends. This is indeed almost inevitable so far as the older ideas are concerned. Unity of knowledge, order and harmony, even completeness and symmetry, truth and beauty, are indeed no longer of direct use as canons for the scientific inquirer, any more than the mysteries once supposed to be inherent in certain numbers. Though we still live under the charm of such entities, however much we may try to get rid of them, it must nevertheless be admitted that the poetical, philosophical, and religious aspects of things seem to recede into an increasing distance from the scientific; they do not guide scientific search; it does not receive from them much support. Have both sides been losers by this change? So far as science is concerned, it can claim to have attained by it not only a greater formal completeness and certainty of progress, but also another very important advantage which was unknown to ancient and mediæval research.

8.
Apparent
distance
between
science and
poetry.

This advantage consists in the closer connection between science and practical life. The same mathematical spirit which governs scientific methods rules also in trade, commerce, and industry, and is gradually penetrating into the professions, such as medicine, law, and administration. For all these pursuits have either directly to do with numbers, measures, and weights, with distances of space and time, or they have found it necessary to introduce an elaborate system of statistics and averages through which the irregularity and captiousness of subjective and individual influences are practically eliminated. The

9.
Closer con-
nection
between
science and
life.