

the author of this the astronomical view of nature has also been the birthplace of a different manner of regarding physical phenomena. It will be the object of a future chapter to trace the origin and growth of what I propose to call the physical view of nature. We shall then learn how the germs of this different view can be traced even in the writings of Newton. But before I take up this subject I must deal with another and independent way of regarding nature which very largely supplemented the astronomical view. If the Newtonian gravitation formula is the basis and principle of physical astronomy—of our knowledge of cosmic phenomena—the view I am now going to explain has been equally useful in building up another most important science of modern times—the science of chemistry.

44.  
Opposition  
to the astro-  
nomical  
view of  
nature.