

chapter, while dealing specially with the kinetic view of natural phenomena, I had again occasion to refer to the opinion which has latterly crept into mechanical explanations—namely, that they are to be looked upon merely as symbolical, an opinion which did not enter the minds of the original propounders of the vibratory theory of sound and light, and which some eminent natural philosophers to-day strongly oppose. An opposite fate seems to have befallen the mechanical hypothesis in chemistry and in physics. Whilst Dalton's atoms were accepted with hesitation, the further elaboration of the atomic view has made it almost impossible to resist it as a physical reality; whereas the necessary complications introduced into Young's undulatory theory in order to make it cover electro-magnetic phenomena have given it the appearance of unnaturalness and artificiality—so much so that Maxwell himself abandoned the line of reasoning which led him originally to his fundamental formulæ, and contented himself with more general considerations derived from the conception of energy.

50.
"Kinetics"
and "ener-
getics."

The conceptions which are expressive of the view dealt with in this chapter—the energy ideas—have had a similar fate. There have been those who have interpreted this view to mean that all phenomena in nature can be translated into the language of mechanics: they have accordingly been stimulated to invent all manner of kinetic contrivances by which light, heat, electricity, and chemical action can be represented. Others have interpreted the equivalence of all forms of energy to mean that kinetic energy is only one of the forms in