survey. At present it interests us only as far as it asserts itself also in science. In the study of natural objects we meet with a class of students who are attracted by things as they are: not so much by those which we artificially prepare in our laboratories, as by the infinite variety of real forms; not so much by the geometrical types which allow us to bring them together under some abstract formula, as by the apparent disorder and divine confusion in which real things are scattered about in the heavens and on our globe. It is not the general equation which in its complete solution contains all real and many unreal instances merely as special cases that interests them, but the individual examples themselves. The general laws of motion admit of an infinity of special cases which may never occur in nature; organic chemistry adds daily to the already enormous array of compounds which do not present themselves in living organisms. Clearly, besides the abstract sciences, which profess to introduce us to the general relations or laws which govern everything that is or can be real, there must be those sciences which study the actually existing forms as distinguished from the possible ones, the "here" and "there," the "where" and "how," of things and processes; which look upon real things not as examples of the general and universal, but as alone possessed of that mysterious something which distinguishes the real and actual from the possible and artificial. These sciences are the truly descriptive sciences, in opposition to the abstract ones. They are indeed older than the abstract sciences, and they have, in the course of the period under review in this work,

4. The descriptive sciences.