

6.
The spirit of
exploration.

one of which has tended enormously to broaden our view of natural objects and events; the other to narrow it down and make it more definite, scientifically accurate, and precise. The former has tended to sweep away the older landmarks and divisions as inadequate to afford us a 'correct view of nature; the latter has tended to create new divisions and definitions, more in harmony with the lines on which the abstract sciences of physics and chemistry have been developed, and has thus brought the actual objects and events of nature more within the grasp of those exact and mathematical methods which those sciences have perfected. The former has been carried on in the vast workshop of nature herself by those daring and far-seeing travellers who, with Alexander von Humboldt at their head, have attempted to gain a view of nature on an extensive scale. For the sake of the increase of natural knowledge alone, they visited distant countries where the elemental forces of nature, undisturbed by the inroads of civilisation, have battled and co-operated to produce the magnificent floras and faunas of the tropics, or where, as in Siberia, the eternal cold has preserved intact the remains of bygone periods. Equipped with the instruments and methods of modern science, they recognised the necessity of studying the actual formation and stratification of rocks, the geographical distribution of organic life on the surface of the

genesis, the three great divisions being the abstract, abstract-concrete, and concrete sciences. My readers will readily see the similarities and the differences which exist between this classification and the more general dis-

tinctions which I have adopted; and I remind them again that I am not writing a history of Science but of Thought, and that all divisions of this great subject are, more or less, arbitrary.