

semblance of apparent rest produced by very rapid rotary motion. Rest and fixity of form seem only to exist apparently or for transient moments in the history of natural events; and even the finished and recurring structures of living beings, which appear to our eyes to be possessed of so much finality and sometimes of so much finish, owe these qualities only to the comparatively short space of time during which we are permitted to gaze at them, and to our ignorance of the slow but endless changes to which they are nevertheless subject.

53.
The morpho-
logical
period.

The period from 1800 to 1860 can be termed the morphological period of natural science. It succeeded the period of the simpler natural history, which had been mainly occupied with classification and description of specimens. During the morphological period the knowledge of the existing things and forms of nature was not only largely extended by excursions into distant lands and periods of history, but forms were also studied *in situ*, and the living things visited in their habitats. A deeper knowledge of the connection and interdependence of natural things and events was thus gained, and the relations and resemblances, the analogies and homologies, of the various forms were impressed on the observer. Besides all this, the microscope revealed the innermost composition and the ultimate structural sameness of living matter, adding moreover the knowledge of an enormous creation which remains hidden to the unarmed eye of the ordinary observer. The morphological view also took note of the relatedness and apparent recurrence of definite forms called types, of the so-called fixity of species and the succeeding characteristic periods of creation, and