

country with a special philosophical teaching, that of Mr Herbert Spencer, which, whilst in many points coinciding with scientific views of development, has some special and peculiar features which will occupy us further on in our survey of thought. Having sought therefore for a term which is to comprise all the contributions to scientific thought which deal with the change and development of natural objects and events, I propose to use the older word "genesis," and to call this view "the genetic view of nature": it is, in general, the view which seeks to give answer to the question,

3.
"Genesis."

shown to be untenable, the words retained their application to the process by which the embryos of living beings gradually make their appearance; and the terms 'development,' 'Entwicklung,' and 'evolutio' are now indiscriminately used for the series of genetic changes exhibited by living beings, by writers who would emphatically deny that 'development' or 'Entwicklung' or 'evolutio,' in the sense in which these words were usually employed by Bonnet or by Haller, ever occurs." The word evolution has, however, acquired in the English language, mainly through the influence of Mr Spencer's writings, a much wider sense than evolution in biology implies: in fact, it takes the place of the German "Werden," a word much used in the philosophical writings influenced by the Hegelian doctrine, which indeed taught a logical or dialectic development of things, as Herbert Spencer and his school teach a mechanical development. There seem to be given to us by observation only two elementary processes of change, or of "Werden" (in Greek *γίνεσθαι*, in French "devenir," in English "be-

coming," in Latin "fieri," in German also the synonym "geschehen"). These are, on the one hand, the process of mechanical motion, and on the other hand the process of logical thought: the one being the movement of external things, ultimately of atoms, the other the spontaneous movement of what Hume called ideas. When the thinking mind fixes its attention on the "fieri" rather than the "esse" of things there are accordingly two clues available, the mental or the physical, the logical or the mechanical. Many times taken up in earlier ages, both have been consistently applied only in the nineteenth century, the latter by Herbert Spencer, the former fifty years earlier by Hegel, whose philosophy is fundamentally as much a logical as the former is a mechanical system of evolution. The narrower meaning of evolution in biology is usually given in French by the word "transformisme," in German by "Entwickelungslehre" or "Darwinismus." See on the general subject Prof. James Sully's able article on "Evolution" in the 9th ed. of the 'Ency. Brit.'