who occupies a unique position in the history of natural science. He introduced the principle and aspect of development into the midst of those studies which, under the important but one-sided influence of Cuvier and his school, were in danger of being confined within the limits of morphology and comparative anatomy. Through a long series of most important embryological investigations, conducted during the years 1819-1837, he demon-

science from the spell under which it was kept for a long time in the West of Europe by the great authority of Cuvier. Geographically also, von Baer's activity was centered in Königsberg (where he was one of a brilliant company who made the University celebrated) and St Petersburg. Though a great admirer of Cuvier, whose biography he wrote, and an adherent of the doctrine of animal types, which he independently arrived at, he introduced three distinct lines of research into his scientific labours, to all three of which Cuvier was either foreign or distinctly averse — viz., microscopic research, study of embryological development, and the philosophical spirit of the "Naturphilosophie." He was not dazzled by the latter; but whilst avoiding its extravagances and premature generalisations which then flooded German science, he always appreciated the search for the connection and unity of all the things of nature which was characteristic of that school. Baer stood, historically and philosophically, in the middle between the extreme morphological and genetic views represented respectively by Cuvier before and by Darwin after him. Already in 1815, when studying under Döllinger at Würzburg, he was guided by the idea that "nature follows in her creations certain general themes (types), and that she varies these in the different species." Von Baer also combined the geographical and anthropological interest, so largely represented by Humboldt and Ritter, with his morphological and genetic studies. In fact, it is doubtful whether in any naturalist of the very first order the different interests which the nineteenth century inherited and created were more equally and impartially balanced than in him. The embryological researches of von Baer stimulated many ardent students in Germany, such as Purkinje, Rathtke, Bischoff, and it is mainly through them that this branch of science was cultivated and made generally known. The name of the distant originator thus became somewhat forgotten, so that in French science we do not find von Baer as frequently and appreciatively mentioned as he deserves. Ample information on von Baer's scientific and personal character can be found in later publications: foremost in his 'Autobiography,' published in 1865; in his 'Life,' by Stieda (1877); and in an elaborate work by Professor R. Stölzle, entitled 'K. E. von Baer und seine Weltanschauung' (Regensburg, 1897). This work contains very ample and useful references and extracts from Baer's writings and correspondence. Very important are also von Baer's miscellaneous writings and essays, which were published by Vieweg in Brunswick, in three parts (2nd ed., 1886).