design in this process of change (the teleological view). Though his own researches did so much to give prominence to the genetic view, to the conception of development, he retained and elaborated the doctrine of types; and though he effectually handled the modern methods of the mechanical or exact sciences, he realised the full importance of studying the things and processes of nature in their actual and living connection,[1] and not merely in the artificial isolation of the laboratory or the dissecting-room. And he never became an adherent of the doctrine so prevalent with many of the followers of Darwin, that the apparent purpose of forms and processes in organic nature could be mechanically explained. During the period of his greatest scientific activity he was little known outside of Russia and Germany; in England, Carpenter and Huxley alone drew attention to his embryological and genetic studies; but since the tide of Darwinism has somewhat subsided, or has ceased to be all-absorbing, it is to the writings of Baer that many naturalists revert. In fact they belong to the few books of this class written during the pre-Darwinian age that bear to be read and re-read with profit by those who take a philosophical and not merely a historical interest in the development of natural science. Perhaps the fact that von Baer was as great in relation to the morphological as he was in relation to the genetic and the teleological conceptions of natural phenomena prevented him from producing that revolutionary impression on the minds

16. Von Baer's comprehensive views.

[1] See the introduction to the second part of his 'Entwickelungsgeschichte der Thiere' (Königsberg, 1837).