

many passages of the 'Hydrogéologie,' where he speculated on matters of chemistry, geology, and meteorology without the necessary foundation of facts, such as he possessed in botany and zoology, he laid himself open to the criticism and ridicule¹ of his more cautious opponents. Thus it happened that the most original contributions to science were forgotten or disregarded for more than half a century, after which time Lamarckism became a familiar term in speculative science, denoting one of the great ideas with which the genetic view of nature operates — viz., the influence of environment, adaptation, acquired habits, in the development of living organisms.

28.
Lamarck
and von
Baer.

In the history of the genetic view of nature, the position of Lamarck may be regarded as, in a certain sense, complementary to that of von Baer. Both brought the study of living forms back to that of their origins — Lamarck to the study of the lowest forms of animal creation, the great variety and abundance of which he was the first to attempt to put into some order; von Baer to the study of the embryonic beginnings of the higher organisms, on which important subject he was one of the first to throw some light. Though widely

¹ See, *inter alia*, what Cuvier wrote in his 'Eloge de Lamarck,' which was read posthumously in the Academy by Silvestre, 26th November 1832 ('Mem. de l'Acad. des Sciences,' vol. xiii. p. xx), with omissions to tone down its severity: "Quelque intérêt que ces ouvrages excitassent par leurs parties positives, personne ne crut leur partie systématique assez dangereuse pour mériter d'être attaquée; on la laissa dans la

même paix que la théorie chimique"; and further on he touches on one of the weakest points of all genetic speculations (p. xxii): "Le temps sans borne qui joue un si grand rôle dans la religion des mages, n'en joue pas un moins grand dans toute cette physique de M. de Lamarck, et c'était sur lui qu'il se reposait pour calmer ses propres doutes et pour répondre à toutes les objections de ses lecteurs."