

the older division of zoology and botany having to a large extent been removed by a study of the interdependence of the many forms of living things and their connection with peculiarities of climate and soil. The Darwinian attitude to the study of natural objects has also introduced into the natural sciences the exact spirit of research,—accurate measurements, together with elaborate countings, being resorted to in order to decide the range of variability of species, the rate of increase in numbers, and the proportion of the surviving to the lost or wasted specimens. A large amount of statistical information¹ has thus been accumulated, and natural history is becoming to some extent an exact science. That it will ever be so to a very large extent is doubtful: it is one of the great merits of Darwin that he has introduced a special method into the sciences of nature—the method of a judicious balancing of evidence. He was fully “aware that scarcely a single point was discussed in his works on which facts cannot be adduced, often apparently leading to conclusions directly opposite to those at which he arrived, and that a fair result can be obtained only by fully stating and balancing the facts

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natural selection, and must, therefore, find its explanation in the principle of adaptation or utility” (Wallace, ‘Darwinism,’ p. 189). The term “Mimicry” was first introduced by H. W. Bates in his paper on “Mimetic Butterflies,” read before the Linnean Soc., Nov. 1861, and hailed by Darwin (‘Life,’ vol. ii. p. 392) as “one of the most remarkable and admirable papers” he ever read. The subject had been passed over in the first editions of the ‘Origin,’ but was introduced in later editions, and has always

served as one of the most valuable illustrations and proofs of the theory of natural selection. The whole matter is admirably expounded by Mr Wallace in his long article in the ‘Westminster Review,’ July 1867, reprinted in his ‘Contributions to the Theory of Natural Selection’ (1870, pp. 45-129), and again in ‘Darwinism.’

¹ On the development of statistical methods in the service of the theory of evolution, see chap. xii. below.