

mind. We have also been reminded that the theories of the so-called stability of the planetary system which were propounded in the earlier years of our century, and which have found their way into popular treatises on astronomy, are only approximations. On the other side, we have daily before our eyes the ever-recurring instances of the building up and running down of natural forces in smaller systems. These we term organisms, the living things of nature. It is from and through them that we first learnt to look upon the whole of nature as having a history and a life. Imperceptibly we have been led to study life, the genesis of things, on the large scale and in the abstract, and in doing so have lost sight of the life which goes on around and near us. Both the morphological and genetic views of nature started with a biological interest, but have gradually lost sight of it. It is time to come back to it and to see what real progress has been made during our century in the study of life itself—the truly biological view of nature. This will be the object of the next chapter.