

it is admittedly as yet unsolved. Biological knowledge itself has progressed on the same lines as chemical, physical, and mechanical knowledge; it registers the progressive conquest of new regions of phenomena exhibited by living matter through the methods which have been discovered in the abstract sciences: but it has generally been felt that this knowledge does not exhaust the subject; that there is some principle involved which we know not; and that we cannot think about the living portion of creation without consciously or unconsciously admitting the existence of this principle. The unknown—nay, possibly, the unknowable—element or factor must be admitted to exist, and it involuntarily governs our reflections on that which we know. To show the difference between reflections on biological and on other phenomena, which, though equally unknown, yet do not contain an admittedly unknown factor, it may be useful to refer to the scientific way of dealing with meteorological phenomena. The science of meteorology is probably as young as that of biology, if not younger. Prediction of the weather is probably even more uncertain than the prognosis of a physician at the bedside of a patient suffering from a malignant disease. Yet no one would suggest that there is a special meteorological principle involved, as in the case of the phenomena of life and death there is a special biological principle. We are quite satisfied that purely mechanical and physical and possibly chemical processes make up the whole of the weather problem, and that the difficulty of the latter is simply one of

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