

CHAPTER XI.

ON THE PSYCHO-PHYSICAL VIEW OF NATURE.

IN the three foregoing chapters I have attempted to trace the development of the different aspects under which our knowledge of the real things which surround us, and of nature as a whole, has been extended in recent times. I have brought these different aspects which respectively consider things natural according to their forms, their genesis, or their life and purpose, under the general name of the biological as distinguished from the abstract view, with which I dealt in the four previous chapters. The abstract view tries to arrive at the general properties of all things, which it has succeeded in our times in summing up under the great generalisations of Attraction, Atomism, Kinetics, and the doctrine of Energy. The biological view is interested not so much in general properties as in real specimens—the things, beings, and phenomena in which we see the general properties exemplified and become real and in their actual union or totality which we call nature. The abstract sciences started on their modern career with mathematics, and progressed through the development and application of

1.
Abstract
and concrete
sciences.