

necessity of extensive statistical information before building theories. In one instance, that of language, his advice was followed with signal success.

But even some of the purely physical sciences, like meteorology, are still almost entirely limited to statistical information.

Statistics have thus become a very important department of knowledge, and before taking leave of the exact lines of thought, it will be well to note more precisely the part which these have played in our age, as also the methods by which they proceed. This will be the object of the next chapter, which will accordingly deal with the Statistical View of Nature.