commerce, of politics and society, in which most of us have to spend the larger portion of the working hours of our existence. We can again put the question, What do we know with certainty of the changes and vicissitudes of this artificial atmosphere which surrounds us; what of the chances of a fall or rise in prices, of increased or lessened demand, of impending labour troubles, of the risks even of famine, fire, shipwreck, disease, or war? Again we may say that in general we know the proximate causes, natural or artificial, which may bring them about, but the exact when and where of their occurrence is so slightly known to us that such knowledge is of little, if of any, practical value, and proceeds, moreover, where it exists, more from general good sense and practical experience than from the discoveries of science. Indeed, the latter have, through the wonderful applications in the inventions of arts and crafts, tended to make our artificial atmosphere more complex, liable to more rapid and more drastic changes, and accordingly its features less permanent and less calculable and reliable.

3. Uncertainty in the concrete.

Thus, in spite of the wonderful increase of scientific knowledge and the general diffusion of scientific thought in the course of the century, uncertainty is still the main and dominant characteristic of our life in nature and society; the atmosphere and climate of each are as fickle and changeable, as incalculable and unreliable, as ever. Neither the great law of gravitation nor the fixed proportions of chemistry, neither the intricate doctrine of undulations nor the conception of energy, neither the knowledge of typical forms of nature nor that of their orderly evolution, has, in the hands of those who