up again in the course of the century, and is at present occupying the attention of distinguished thinkers. It will be interesting to give some account of these practical applications.

16. Four applications.

Of these, four notably attract our attention. First, the theory of error, prominently associated with the name of Gauss. Secondly, the writings of Adolphe Quetelet, and the great impetus given by him to statistical research. Thirdly, the peculiar development of the Atomic theory known as the Kinetic theory of gases, which gave to many scientific investigations what Clerk - Maxwell termed the statistical, in opposition to the historical or descriptive, character. Lastly, the Darwinian ideas which deal with the great and increasing numbers of living things, and the changes inherent in their growth and development. These have led to statistical enumerations and registrations which, beginning with Mr Francis Galton's researches into the phenomena of heredity, are at the present moment being continued on special lines by Prof. Karl Pearson.

17. Theory of Error.

That Error is subject to law, or, to express it mathematically, to regularity, is a reflection which forced itself upon the attention of thinkers who occupied themselves with the doctrine of chances, and of statisticians who collected registers of large numbers of events. Let special known sources of error be eliminated or allowed for in every instance, there still remains a very large, practically an infinite, number of unknown sources of error which—where we have to do with simple magnitude—may increase or reduce our result by mutually