

is room for the statistical treatment. This treatment entirely ignores the definite nature of the component units, and merely investigates those properties which depend upon aggregation in large numbers, the average or mean results, and the chances of deviations or variations. Now, if organic beings are supposed to be made up of immeasurably large numbers of units transmitted to them by inheritance, and capable of self-multiplication, they must be subject to certain regularities, to regular deviations or recurrent changes; and, under the influence of selection, be it artificial or automatic, to certain developments which can be studied without a precise knowledge of the biological, chemical, or physical nature of these units themselves, or of the mechanism of their movements. Economics, meteorology, the kinetic theory of gases, deal in this way with complex phenomena, the exact individual history of which they are quite incapable of narrating. As in the case of the kinetic theory of gases we had to translate into statistical language the phenomena of pressure, temperature, volume, available or hidden energy, &c., so in dealing statistically with biological phenomena, such as inheritance, on the basis of the theory of Pangenesis, we have to translate into statistical language such phenomena as "types, sports of nature, stability, variation and individuality." "The word man," as Mr Galton says,¹ "when rightly understood, becomes a noun of multitude, because he is composed of millions, perhaps billions, of cells, each of which possesses in some sort an independent life, and is parent of other cells. He is a conscious

¹ 'Hereditary Genius' (1892), pp. 349, 350.