

fidence in his right to make use of the description in investigating the relationship between life and the environment.

The biologist studies living organisms as inhabitants of this world, and by holding fast to physics and chemistry he has created modern physiology, a science which unites many, indeed nearly all, of the departments of physics and chemistry in the task of describing the processes of life.

That task has proved an arduous one, even in comparison with the other enterprises of science, and it must be confessed that few of the departments of physiology wear an aspect of finality which has long been familiar in such sciences as mechanics and crystallography, for example. Yet, as time has passed, and the nature of the material basis of life and the conspicuous features of the mechanism which the organism presents for study have become more familiar, assurance has steadily grown of the possibility of deciding upon fundamental and essential characteristics of the life process. No doubt opinions have fluctuated, and in different periods of the history of science particular phenomena of living organisms have been examined, criticized, and then well-nigh forgotten. But gradually ideas, ever more and more precise, have arisen and been accepted.