

we possess. For these facts an explanation of a different sort would be necessary, something logically resembling natural selection, a natural process acting automatically through the properties of matter and energy, and never overstepping the limits of matter and energy, space and time; neither supernatural nor metaphysical, but purely mechanistic. Lacking any indication of what such an explanation may be, or how it is to be sought, we shall do well to turn to other considerations.

II

VITALISM

All the skill of trained biologists, multiplying and refining our knowledge of the forms of life, has even yet not availed to make clear the fundamental ideas of the science. Complexity exists here in the very nature of the case, and here, if at all, the complete subjugation of natural phenomena to physical science may be expected to fail.

In an earlier chapter the painful advance of physics and chemistry into the domain of biology has been sketched, and it was then shown how progress is beset with well-nigh insuperable obstacles. Thus it is that biological thought has never attained to that