

effects of vitalistic control of its evolution, just as we perceive in a house not only the material structure, but the idea of the architect. Further, the origin of life itself remains shrouded in mystery. Meanwhile, for most men physiology has become merely biophysics and biochemistry, and mechanism is undoubtedly firmly established throughout every department of the science.

Such limitations of the vitalistic hypothesis, damaging though they may be, do not destroy its claim to consideration as a controlling factor of the processes of evolution, embryology, repair, etc., in spite of the fact that even here it has suffered serious though less complete reverses. In 1859 Darwin's natural selection offered itself as a possible substitute for vitalism in a part or the whole of this field, and soon gained very general acceptance. The survival of the fittest has now become in the judgment of all biologists an unquestioned force in the molding of life. Therefore, at best, but a restricted scope within its restricted field remains to vitalism.

From the earliest days of the new hypothesis it has been widely recognized that to accept the survival of the fittest as one factor in the adaptation of life to its environment is quite