

Vitalism therefore flourishes, as the recent remarkable works of Driesch and Bergson testify. Of these two authors the former is concerned to prove that pure mechanism is insufficient in biology, and that to mechanism must be added his entelechies;<sup>1</sup> the latter has gone beyond the vitalism of earlier authors, to give his own view of his speculations, and introduced the idea of the vital impetus.

## A

## THE VITALISM OF BERGSON

Upon analysis the theory of Bergson amounts to this, that there is an original creative impetus impelled upon life which, at all events in the main, is responsible for the course that organic evolution has taken. To quote his own words: "So we come back, by a somewhat roundabout way, to the idea we started from, that of an *original impetus* of life, passing from one generation of germs to the following generation of germs through the developed organisms which bridge the interval between the generations. This impetus, sustained right along the lines of evolution among which it gets divided, is the fundamental cause of variations, at least

<sup>1</sup> Driesch, "The Science and Philosophy of the Organism." London, 1907 and 1908, two volumes.