

These discoveries, however, important as they are, can hardly be said to extend the domain of biology. Each can be placed at once in its appropriate pigeon-hole, and, although necessitating a reconsideration of the ordinary views on certain speculative matters, they have no effect on the fundamental conceptions of the science. But there is a series of researches now being carried on by numerous workers in Germany, France, and England, which seem, as it were, to open a new vista, and promise to have as profound an effect on the biology of the future as the work of Schwann and Schleiden—the founders of the cell theory—had on that of fifty years ago. I refer to the researches on the minute structure of cells and nuclei, on the exact nature of the phenomena accompanying the maturation and impregnation of the egg-cell, and of those accompanying secretion in gland cells. One sees a new department of molecular biology unfolding before one's eyes, the various vital processes becoming more and more obviously matters of molecular physics and chemistry.

It would take several addresses of the length of this to give even an outline of this fascinating subject. As it is, I can only refer those who wish to acquaint themselves with the line of inquiry to which I refer to three articles in the "Encyclopædia Britannica"—that on "Physiology" by Professor Michael Foster, and those on "Morphology" and on "Reproduction" by Mr. Patrick Geddes. Suffice it to say, for the present, that biology is daily becoming at once more exact and more philosophical.

I have now only to resign this chair to my friend Mr. Chapman, whom I beg to welcome in the name of the Institute as a man in whom wide and curious learning is happily combined with legal acumen, and whose influence will, I feel sure—especially if seconded by a rise in wool—do much to restore this Society to the state of prosperity in which we all wish to see it.

7. The office-bearers for the ensuing session were elected as follows:—*President*—F. R. Chapman; *Vice-Presidents*—Prof. Parker, A. Wilson; *Secretary*—G. M. Thomson; *Treasurer*—J. C. Thomson; *Auditor*—Mr. Brent; *Council*—Dr. Hocken, G. M. Barr, Dr. De Zouche, E. Milland, Dr. Scott, D. Petrie, C. Chilton.

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