

causal foundation; and this is the reason why now it is commonly and exclusively (though not quite correctly) designated as *Darwin's Theory*.

The inestimable value of the Theory of Descent appears in a different light, accordingly as we consider its more immediate connection with organic natural science, or its larger influence upon the whole range of man's knowledge of the universe. Organic natural science, or Biology, which as Zoology treats of animals, as Botany of plants, is completely reformed and founded anew by the Theory of Descent. For by this theory we are made acquainted with the active causes of organic forms, while up to the present time Zoology and Botany have simply been occupied with the facts of these forms. We may therefore also term the theory of descent a *mechanical explanation of organic forms*, or the science of the true causes of Organic Nature.

As I cannot take for granted that my readers are all familiar with the terms "organic and inorganic nature," and as the contrast of both these natural bodies will, in future, occupy much of our attention, I must say a few words in explanation of them. We designate as *Organisms*, or *Organic bodies*, all *living creatures or animated bodies*; therefore all plants and animals, man included; for in them we can almost always prove a combination of various parts (instruments or organs) which work together for the purpose of producing the phenomena of life. Such a combination we do not find in *Anorgana*, or inorganic natural bodies—the so-called dead or *inanimate bodies*, such as minerals or stones, water, the atmospheric air, etc. Organisms always contain albuminous combinations of carbon in a semi-fluid