

preachers, and to clothe phenomena, which are in their way unique, with the hollow pomp of ponderous and high-sounding words, this would be the opportunity for him; for we have now approached one of those great mysteries of animal nature, which encircle the region of animal life as opposed to all the rest of the world of phenomena. The question of the formation of cells, the question of the excitation of a continuous and equable motion, and finally the questions of the independence of the nervous system and of the soul—these are the great problems on which the human mind can measure its strength. To comprehend the relation of the male and female to the egg-cell is almost as much as to solve all those mysteries. The origin and development of the egg-cell in the mother's body, the transmission of the bodily and mental peculiarities of the father to it by his seed, touch upon all the questions which the human mind has ever raised about man's existence." And, we add, these most important questions are solved, by means of the Theory of Descent, in a purely mechanical, a purely monistic sense!

There can, therefore, be no further doubt that, in the sexual propagation of man and all higher organisms, inheritance, which is a purely mechanical process, is directly dependent upon the material continuity of the producing and produced organism, just as is the case in the simplest non-sexual propagation of the lower organisms. However, I must at once take this opportunity of drawing attention to an important difference which inheritance presents in sexual and non-sexual propagation. It is a fact long since acknowledged, that the individual peculiarities of the producing organism are much more accurately transmitted