

reasons for the probability of this opinion have been brought forward.

Our knowledge of inheritance and propagation has made extraordinary progress during the last thirty years through the above and numerous other investigations. It is true none of the five above theories of molecules altogether explain the enigma of these wonderful processes; their merit lies rather in having brought us to a clear consciousness of our inability to comprehend the immensely complex nature of these invisible processes. However, they have enabled us to cast aside the former mystical ideas as to their nature, and we have arrived generally at the conviction that we have here to deal with physiological functions, with the vital activity of cell-life, which, like all other phenomena of life, have to be traced back to chemico-physical processes; in fact, have to be explained by a mechanical method.