

period of scarcely one thousand years, which comprises the darkest epoch of the Middle Ages, seems, to the naturalist, only a brief space of time compared with the many thousands of years which—according to the latest investigations into primæval times—have already passed since the appearance of the human race.

Now, if we wish to know what causes actually determine these two great laws of development in man, namely, the law of divergence and the law of progress, we must compare them with the corresponding laws of development in animals, and on a close examination we shall inevitably come to the conclusion that the phenomena, as well as their causes, are exactly the same in the two cases. The course of development in man, just as in that of animals, being directed by the two fundamental laws of differentiation and perfecting, is determined solely by purely mechanical causes, and is solely the necessary consequence of natural selection in the struggle for life.

Perhaps in the preceding discussion the question has presented itself to some—"Are not these two laws identical? Is not progress in all cases necessarily connected with divergence?" This question has often been answered in the affirmative, and Carl Ernst Bär, for example, one of the greatest investigators in the domain of the history of development, has set forth the following proposition as one of the principal laws in the ontogenesis of the animal body: "The degree of development (or perfecting) depends on the stage of separation (or differentiation) of the parts."<sup>20</sup> Correct as this proposition may be on the whole, yet it is not universally true. In many individual cases it can be proved that divergence and progress by no means always