

sidered processes contain a fund of knowledge, which is unsurpassed by any other in general importance. For we here have the development before our eyes as a tangible fact, and we need only place a number of hen's eggs in an incubator, and watch their development for three weeks carefully with a microscope, in order to understand the mystery by which a highly organized bird develops out of a single simple cell. Step by step we can trace this wonderful transformation, and step by step point out how one organ is developed out of the other.

And for this reason alone—because, in fact, it is in this domain only that the facts of development are presented to us in tangible reality. I consider it of paramount consequence to direct the reader's careful attention to those infinitely important and interesting processes in the *individual development of organisms*, viz. to *ontogeny*, and above all to the *ontogeny of the vertebrate animals*, including *man*. I wish specially to recommend these exceedingly remarkable and instructive phenomena to the reader's most careful consideration; for, on the one hand, they form one of our strongest supports for the theory of descent, and for the monistic conception of the universe generally; and, on the other hand, because hitherto it is only a few privileged persons who have properly estimated their immense general importance. These phenomena will be found discussed very fully in my "Anthropogeny."

We cannot, indeed, but be astonished when we consider the deep ignorance which still prevails, in the widest circles, about the facts of the individual development of man and organisms in general. These facts, the universal importance of which cannot be estimated too highly, were established,