(Monera and cells). The analogy between the two is so great that, in reality, no accurate boundary can be drawn. In my "General Morphology" I have quoted in support of this a number of striking facts ("Gen. Morph." i. 146, 156, 158).

If we vividly picture to ourselves this "unity of organic and inorganic nature," this essential agreement of organisms and anorgana in matter, form, and force, and if we bear in mind that we are not able to establish any one fundamental distinction between these two groups of bodies (as was formerly generally assumed), then the question of spontaneous generation will lose a great deal of the difficulty which at first seems to surround it. Then the development of the first organism out of inorganic matter will appear a much more easily conceivable and intelligible process than has hitherto been the case, while an artificial absolute barrier between organic or animate, and inorganic or inanimate nature was maintained.

In the question of spontaneous generation, or archigony, which we can now answer more definitely, it must be borne in mind that by this conception we understand generally the non-parental generation of an organic individual, the origin of an organism independent of a parental or producing organism. It is in this sense that on a former occasion I mentioned spontaneous generation (archigony) as opposed to parental generation or propagation (tocogony). In the latter case the organic individual arises by a greater or less portion of an already existing organism separating itself and growing independently ("Gen. Morph." ii. 32).

In spontaneous generation, which is often also called original generation (generatio spontanea, æquivoca, primaria,