

seems very obvious ; but in the higher ones, in those which propagate by eggs, the problem is infinitely more complicated. It is true that the egg is, strictly, nothing but a small part of the parental organism, and we know from everyday experience that this single egg-cell has in it all the attributes and characteristics of the parent ; but these attributes and characteristics make their appearance successively, just as the egg cell of a chick has neither wings nor feathers, not even a backbone, but develops these organs because its parents have them.

The theory that acquired characters are hereditary has often been vigorously attacked ; but the champions of the negative position have not given us anything satisfactory instead. They question, also, the principle of adaptation as a factor in Evolution, and substitute 'variation,' coupled with 'natural selection.'

They point to Darwin's argument : (1) It is a fact that animals and plants produce a