

happened before to any of the creature's ancestors.

Still, I think we are brought near the solution of the mystery by such considerations. We see no difficulty in the regeneration of a few cells, or in the making good of the disturbance suffered by one of the most simple organisms ; but we become suspicious when we see that countless cells, not of one kind, but of the most varied tissues and parts of the body, make common cause in remedying a defect in a serviceable way.

We must assume that since the beginning of life organisms have been subjected to countless insults. We can scarcely speak of a wound in an *Amoeba* ; but these insults have always been made good, and whenever this was not the case, that particular organism came to an end. As these organisms developed into more complicated ones, the possible insults became more serious, more complicated ; and the organisms took adaptive measures so as to be superior to them. This