

Before Darwin's day the student of habits, interrelations, and adaptations had been looked upon by his sterner brethren with more or less contemptuous indulgence.

Since Darwin's day, however, the study of bionomics has risen to worth and dignity, though there are still some who misunderstand its merits. (a) It is plain, in the first place, that it must be a very incomplete biology which does not take account of the living creature. The bird's song is nothing to the morphologist, except in so far as the anatomy of the syrinx or song-box is concerned, but it is nevertheless an essential part of our biological conception of the songster, and it cannot be understood apart from other songsters. (b) Throughout organic nature—in plant and animal—we find adaptations of structure, many of which are only intelligible when we consider the organism in its relations to its animate and inanimate surroundings. Whatever be our theory of the origin of adaptations, many of them have no meaning if we leave the organism isolated or unrelated. (c) The modern conception of life has as one of its central ideas the efficacy of natural selection or elimination in the struggle for existence; it is plain that if we are to judge justly of this it can only be by seeing its actual (not fancied) operation in particular cases. (d) The study of bionomics supplies much of the raw material of the incipient science of comparative psychology. (e) And finally, if there be any vision more than another which stimulates the mind of the biologist it is the peculiarly Darwinian vision of an infinite web of life, of a vast system of linkages binding part to part throughout the world—the conception of the correlation of organisms.

We have Darwin's authority for taking Fritz Müller (1822-97) as a type of the modern naturalist, and it would be difficult to find another in whom Fritz Müller as a Type. the characteristic features of the Darwinian era reached a finer development. A few personal details, taken from Hæckel's "Appreciation", may be used to illustrate the scientific temper of the man, and also, we believe, of many modern students of bionomics.