

adaptation—an idea which has often recurred in the minds of evolutionists, but which seems to await adequate exposition in the hands of some other supreme combination of philosopher and naturalist.

The foundations so firmly laid by Aristotle remained almost unbuilt upon till the scientific renaissance at the end of the sixteenth century; only here and there did some strenuous worker raise a ^{Mediæval} _{Period.} corner a few feet higher; often, indeed, the outline of the whole was obscured by rubbish. There were, however, two important influences which should be borne in mind—the influence of the fathers and schoolmen, and the influence of Arabic science.

Within the church there were two movements which are still discernible—that of the literal and that of the liberal party. The literalists may be represented, for instance, by such “an extreme conservative” as the famous Spanish Jesuit Suarez (1548–1617); they reacted against Aristotelianism, and held firmly to the *ipsissima verba* of the Mosaic cosmogony. The liberal party, represented, for instance, by Augustine (353–430), and in extreme form by Bruno (1548–1600), were wisely content to define creation as the institution of the order of nature, and some of them found no difficulty in combining with this a more or less clear acceptance of evolution-ideas.

Among the Arabs science found, for a time, an environment more congenial than Europe afforded; it was there that the Aristotelian tradition was kept most vigorously alive, it was there that his works were first translated (between 813 and 833), and accepted as a treasure to be traded with, not merely hidden in a napkin and buried in the ground. Avicenna (930–1037) expresses the “culmination of Arabic science”, but, after a period of glimmering, the light failed.

Towards the end of the sixteenth century, under a variety of potent influences, science reasserted itself as a natural development and discipline of the ^{Scientific} _{Renaissance.} human spirit, and, in the vigour of conscious youth, threw off the cramping bonds of a warped Aristotelian tradition, and put away the childish things with