

THE RIDDLE OF THE UNIVERSE

cal science of the developed forms"; the second volume ("General Evolution") was occupied with the science of the "developing forms." The systematic introduction to the latter formed a "genealogical survey of the natural system of organisms." Until that time the term "evolution" had been taken to mean exclusively, both in zoology and botany, the development of individual organisms—embryology, or metamorphic science. I established the opposite view, that this history of the embryo (ontogeny) must be completed by a second, equally valuable, and closely connected branch of thought—the history of the race (phylogeny). Both these branches of evolutionary science are, in my opinion, in the closest causal connection; this arises from the reciprocal action of the laws of heredity and adaptation; it has a precise and comprehensive expression in my "fundamental law of biogeny."

As the new views I had put forward in my *General Morphology* met with very little notice, and still less acceptance, from my scientific colleagues, in spite of their severely scientific setting, I thought I would make the most important of them accessible to a wider circle of informed readers by a smaller work, written in a more popular style. This was done in 1868, in *The Natural History of Creation* (a series of popular scientific lectures on evolution in general, and the systems of Darwin, Goethe, and Lamarck in particular). If the success of my *General Morphology* was far below my reasonable anticipation, that of *The Natural History of Creation* went far beyond it. In a period of thirty years nine editions and twelve different translations of it have appeared. In spite of its great defects, the book has contributed much to the popularization of the main ideas of modern evolution. Still, I could