

THE RIDDLE OF THE UNIVERSE

of comparative psychology on the lines of monistic evolution. The two volumes of this work which were completed are among the most valuable productions of psychological literature. For, conformably to the principles of our modern monistic research, his first care was to collect and arrange all the important facts which have been empirically established in the field of comparative psychology in the course of centuries; in the second place, these facts are tested with an *objective criticism*, and systematically distributed; finally, such rational conclusions are drawn from them on the chief general questions of psychology as are in harmony with the fundamental principles of modern monism. The first volume of Romanes's work bears the title of *Mental Evolution in the Animal World*; it presents, in natural connection, the entire length of the chain of psychic evolution in the animal world, from the simplest sensations and instincts of the lowest animals to the elaborate phenomena of consciousness and reason in the highest. It contains also a number of extracts from a manuscript which Darwin left "on instinct," and a complete collection of all that he wrote in the province of psychology.

The second and more important volume of Romanes's work treats of "Mental evolution in man and the origin of human faculties." The distinguished psychologist gives a convincing proof in it "that the psychological barrier between man and the brute has been overcome." Man's power of conceptual thought and of abstraction has been gradually evolved from the non-conceptual stages of thought and ideation in the nearest related mammals. Man's highest mental powers—reason, speech, and conscience—have arisen from the lower stages of the same faculties in our primate ancestors