

## Analogies Concerning Life 143

thus spring into corporeal existence, as it were, are essentially closed curves or loops, which cannot be generated ; they can be expanded or enlarged to cover a wide field, and they can be contracted or shrunk up into insignificance, but they cannot be created, they must be pre-existent ; they were in the non-magnetised steel all the time, though they were so small and ill-arranged that they had no perceptible effect whatever ; they constituted a potentiality for magnetism ; they existed as molecular closed curves or loops, which, by the operation called magnetisation, could, some of them, be opened out into loops of finite area and spread out into space, where they are called " lines of force." They then constitute the region called a magnetic field, which remains a seat of so-called " permanent " magnetic activity, until by lapse of time, excessive heat, or other circumstance, they close up again ; and so the magnet, as a magnet, dies. The magnetism itself, however, has not really died, it has a perpetual