

ten years before von Baer<sup>1</sup> took up "the subject, which then presented itself as the richest which an anatomist could take up, the history of development," and twenty years before his first larger publication on this subject. Lamarck's<sup>2</sup> 'Philosophie Zoologique' appeared in 1809. Though known to von Baer, it does not seem to have ever been much appreciated by him, but it was the first serious attempt to deal with phylogenesis, as von Baer's researches were the first consistent studies in ontogenesis.

19.  
Lamarck.

It is of interest to inquire into the reasons which induced Lamarck to form opinions so entirely different from those which, through the influence and the authority of Cuvier, were then prevalent among naturalists, and to oppose the idea of variability and of descent to that of

<sup>1</sup> Von Baer himself describes—using these words—how in the year 1819 the play of accident or good fortune "threw this subject into his hands." Stieda, p. 67.

<sup>2</sup> Since the interest in the speculations of J. Baptiste de Lamarck (1744 - 1829) has been revived through the writings of Charles Darwin, the historical antecedents of his ideas have also been studied, and his as well as Geoffroy's theories have been brought into connection with the views contained in Buffon's 'Epoques de la Nature.' See especially the interesting analysis in Edmond Perier's 'La Philosophie Zoologique avant Darwin,' 1884. "Ainsi surgissent, posés par Buffon, ce partisan d'abord si résolu de la fixité des espèces, tous les problèmes dont la solution aura été sans aucun doute la pensée dominante de la seconde moitié de ce siècle. . . . Et toutes ces grandes idées que Buffon devine en

quelque sorte, vers lesquelles il est invinciblement entraîné par la puissante et rigoureuse logique de son génie, sont précisément celles qui commencent aujourd'hui, appuyées sur un ensemble imposant de recherches, à triompher de tous les scrupules" (p. 68). "Trois grands hommes y vont poursuivre, par des voies diverses, l'œuvre de Buffon : Lamarck, Geoffroy St Hilaire, et Cuvier" (p. 72). For the historical connections of Lamarck's ideas see also Huxley's article in the 9th ed. of the 'Ency. Brit.,' in which he points to a great change which took place in Lamarck's views between 1794 and 1809. In fact, the theories which have given to Lamarck so distinguished a position in the history of the genetic view of nature belong to the latter half of his long life. I know of no other recent example of so late a development of quite original ideas except perhaps the critical philosophy of Kant.