

botany, in anatomy and physiology, can be discussed without the question arising, How has this problem originated? What are the real causes of its development?

This question was almost unknown seventy years ago, when Charles Darwin, the great reformer of biology, began his academical career at Cambridge as a student of theology. In the same year, 1828, Carl Ernst von Baer* published in Germany his classical work on the embryology of animals, the first successful attempt to elucidate by 'observation and reflection' the mysterious origin of the animal body from the egg, and to explain in every respect the 'history of the growing individuality.' Darwin at that time had no knowledge of this great advance, and he could not divine that forty years later embryology would be one of the strongest supports of his own life's work—of that very theory of transformism which, founded by Lamarck in the year of Darwin's birth,

* See note, p. 89.