

nature which, before his time, had been traced either to intuitions or to higher commands, or lastly, to utilitarian purposes. Being inherited by the individual through a long line of ancestral growth these moral sentiments are intuitive or innate so far as the individual man is concerned. To him whose memory covers only a portion of his own experience moral precepts appear as commands; the combined memory of the race, however, would reveal them to be natural expedients useful for the preservation, multiplication, and improvement of the race.

66.  
Combina-  
tion of utili-  
tarian and  
intuitional  
views in  
Morals.

This plausible combination of the utilitarian with the intuitional aspect has made a lasting and deep impression on recent ethical theory, as it has likewise done in the theory of knowledge, giving in both cases a fresh meaning to the *a priori* or innate principle which plays such an important part, *e.g.*, in Kant's mental and moral philosophy. Whilst the importance given to it through Darwinian speculation both in this country and abroad is undeniable, its value as a philosophical explanation has been much exaggerated. As little as Darwin's biological theory gives an account of the genesis of species, being really concerned only with their descent or genealogy, as little does the evolutionist theory of morality give a satisfactory explanation of its origin. This is thrown back into a remote and shadowy past. The older ethical theories which dealt primarily with the moral criterion or with the fundamental distinction of good and evil are superseded by a historical exposition, showing how moral ideas have in course of time been changed and upon what circumstances these