

tion of science on the one side and the growth of what we may term the popular spirit on the other; the interest taken in the life, the government, and the organisation of the masses. In most countries, not only in Europe but also in America and in the East, population has greatly increased, giving rise to discussions started in the beginning of the century by Malthus in his 'Theory of Population.' In all civilised countries, without exception, the progress of science and its application to the Arts and Industries has greatly changed the occupations of the masses, creating a large and increasing industrial, in the place of the agricultural, population which was predominant in former centuries. Society in consequence has acquired quite new and distinct features which either did not exist or were not conspicuous in former ages. Of all objects of research, of all natural phenomena, society is therefore the least stable. The new science of sociology, which professes to deal with its subject in the same way as other sciences have dealt with their subjects, is confronted by a difficulty which is quite peculiar to it. We need only name the subjects of the other sciences most nearly related to sociology, such as psychology and biology, in order to recognise that the latter have the advantage of dealing with organisms and phenomena which—at least during historic ages of which we possess written records—have not materially changed. They can accordingly point to some average standard, some mean around which individual variations, be they normal or pathological, oscillate. Such a normal mean or average