

nition that Darwin's theory of natural selection could be fitted into the Spencerian scheme in which, together with Lamarckian adaptation, it formed such an important illustration of organic change. And at least in one large department, in that of biology, Darwinism supplied exactly that principle which Spencer's scheme was essentially in need of; it supplied, or was at least very largely credited with supplying, a principle of progress. Through it the term Evolution acquired the meaning of an advance from the lower to the higher, and partook of that peculiarity so characteristic of Hegel's principle, that it set no definable limit to the process of mental development.

70.
Incomplete-
ness of
Spencer's
Evolution.

But it soon became evident that the Spencerian scheme of evolution is incomplete. This incompleteness, though obvious from the beginning to a few penetrating critics, escaped general notice through the enormous array of actual facts marshalled before the minds of Spencer's readers. The want of transition from the general principles to their application in separate regions of knowledge, the fact that in each of these regions this application had to begin with the introduction of special factors or data which were, between the different regions, connected merely by vague analogies, was a defect which was early recognised. Beyond the reference to the nebular hypothesis of Laplace in cosmical physics and to the transformist view in geology introduced by Lyell, we find in Spencer's writings no attempt to deal with evolution in inorganic nature. This omission, though explained by Spencer as inevitable considering the magnitude of the task he set himself, is nevertheless unfortunate, for