Newtonian law of attraction, or action at a distance, which governed much scientific thought in the earlier part of the century, and appears again in a modified form in Herbert Spencer's system; Büchner's principles of *Kraft und Stoff;* the principle of Energy in the writings of Ostwald and others; the principle of descent and evolution, and Haeckel's Law of Substance.

A feature common to all these principles and their elaboration is that they deal with things and events which exist or have existed somewhere in space, and, as such, must somehow partake of the nature of space, being subject to geometrical rule and order. Two difficulties, however, arise which stand in the way of the completion of this world-picture, which we may term, with Humboldt, the physical description of the Universe.

The first difficulty is that in stating ever so completely the uniformities and regularities of natural facts and events we are dealing only with an abstraction, a lifeless mechanism. In the actual world itself this ever-repeated order exists only in innumerable living examples, in occurrences which might, so far as we know, also be quite different. For the actual order—what we may term the collocation—of things the laws of nature give us no explanation. Now, if this scientific or mechanical order of things in space and time is only an abstraction, the question arises: Where does this abstraction, as a matter of fact, exist?

83. The scientific order an abstraction.

An attempt to answer this question raises a second difficulty, for it introduces us to another world, which we may term the inner as contrasted with the outer