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## TELEOLOGY

If, then, cosmic evolution be pure mechanism and yet issue in fitness, why not organic evolution as well? Mechanism is enough in physical science, which no less than biological science appears to manifest teleology; it must therefore suffice in biology.

Thus once more we arrive at the negation of vitalism. For this conclusion we possess two arguments: the argument that in such aspects as concern physical science, and apart from differences scientifically explicable, organic and inorganic phenomena are alike, and therefore a specifically vital teleology is unnecessary; and the argument that inorganic science unquestionably has no need of non-mechanistic teleology. Hence we are obliged to conclude that all metaphysical teleology is to be banished from the whole domain of natural science.<sup>1</sup>

What then becomes of fitness? Clearly there are two logical possibilities. Either there exists an unknown mechanistic explanation of that common issue of the organic and cosmic

<sup>1</sup> Such at least is the simplest provisional hypothesis, and the only view which involves no gratuitous assumptions. It is therefore the one which must now be adopted.