

into the phenomena of life to a description and analysis of purely physical and chemical phenomena, and as these are supposed to be reducible to purely mechanical processes, Biology would, according to this programme, become a purely mechanical Science. It has, however, become evident to many acute thinkers that, though the discoveries on this line of research may be unlimited, they will nevertheless fail to exhaust or to reach the real essence of life. This is usually expressed by saying that the purely mechanical category must be supplemented by a vital category, which consists mainly in the study of the phenomena of life, not in isolation, but in their totality as represented in living organisms.

This was perhaps most clearly, and for the first time, stated by Auguste Comte, who insisted on the necessity of taking the *vue d'ensemble* in entering upon biological research.

This *vue d'ensemble* we have characterised in the foregoing as the Synoptic View, and maintained that it is a general aspect which applies to all phenomena whether they belong to lifeless, living, or conscious beings.

And when we proceed further in the upward scale, and reach the realm of animated and conscious beings, we have to add to the category of life that of personality, which in its turn superadds something to the category of life. And still further on, when we deal with personal existences, not only from the external but especially from the internal point of view, we again come to a graduated scale of mental categories, such as sensation, memory, attention, intelligence, and above these and other categories, we come to the moral and religious sentiment.