

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

Definition of "Natural History" and "Biology"—Relations of the Organic and Inorganic Series—Classification of the Natural Sciences—Characteristics of Organic and Inorganic Objects—Form—Chemical Composition—Intimate Structure—Mode of Increase—Cyclical or Periodic Change . . . Pages 1-12

CHAPTER II.

Nature of Life and Vital Action—Difficulties in dealing with the Subject—Theories of the Nature of Vital Action—Definitions of Life—Conditions for Vitality—Essential Conditions—Protoplasm : its Nature and Relations—Physical Theory of Life—Theory of a "Vital Force"—Subsidiary Conditions for Vitality—Organisation—Air—Temperature—Light—Water—"Death"—"Potential" Vitality—Revitalisation and its Significance
13-38

CHAPTER III.

Distinctions between the Animal and Plant Series—Difficult nature of the subject—"Regnum Protisticum"—Comparison of Animal and Plant forms with reference to Form ; Motor Power ; Chemical Composition ; Intimate Structure ; Nature and Mode of Assimilation of the Food—Relations of the Animal and Plant worlds 39-56

CHAPTER IV.

Differences between different Organisms—Divisions of Biological Science—Morphology, Physiology, and Distribution—The Differences in "Function"—"Specialisation of Function"—Illustrations and Deductions 57-69

CHAPTER V.

Morphological Differences between different Organisms—"Morphological Types:" their Nature and Constitution—Definition and Consideration of the Six Types or Sub-kingdoms: Protozoa, Coelenterata, Echinozoa or Annuloida, Annulosa, Mollusca, Vertebrata	Pages 70-88
--	-------------

CHAPTER VI.

Differences and Relations between Parts and Organs—"Homology" and "Analogy"—Definition of Homology, and Illustrations of "Homologues"—Modes of Investigating Homologies—Serial and Lateral Homology—Analogy—Definition—Examples of "Analogues"—"Balancing of Organs"—Correlation of Growth and Structure—Homomorphism—Mimicry—Symmetry of Animal Forms—Relations of Symmetry and Homology	89-111
---	--------

CHAPTER VII.

Classification: Nature and Mode of—"Natural" and "Artificial" Systems—Morphology and Physiology the two factors of Classification—System and Mode of Arrangement of the Animal Series: the Type or Sub-Kingdom; Class; Order; Family; Genus; Species—Nature of "Species"—Variation in Species—Recent Opinions regarding the significance of the term—Provisional Definition of "Species"—Illustrations of Classification	112-133
--	---------

CHAPTER VIII.

The Origin of Animal Forms—Difficulty of investigating the subject—Theoretical Nature of the subject—Theories of "Origin of Species"—Doctrine of "Special Creation"—Hypotheses of "Evolution"—Lamarck's Theory of "Progressive Development"—Mr. Darwin's Theory of "Natural Selection"—Examination of the Darwinian Hypothesis—Criticisms of and Objections to the Theory—Objections to the Theory of "Sexual Selection"—Tendency of Evolutionary Doctrines	134-153
---	---------

CHAPTER IX.

“Histology”—Intimate Structure of the Tissues of Living Beings—Cells, Fibres, and Membranes—History and Structure of the Cell—Cell-wall—Cell-contents—Nucleus—Analogy between the Cell and the entire Organism—Physiology and Functions of Cells—Vital Properties of Cells—Cell-reproduction—Origin of Cells—Theories of Schwann, Goodsir, Huxley, Bennett, and Beale—Relation of Cells to Bioplasm—Idea of a “Molecular Bioplasm” as the ultimate Constituent of Vitality

Pages 154-170

CHAPTER X.

Physiology of the Living Organism—Function of Nutrition: its Nature and Relations to Tissue-waste—Nutritive Equilibrium and Excess—“Growth:”—Nature and Phenomena of—Nutritive Deficiency—Atrophy—Hypertrophy—“Death” as a result of impaired Nutrition—Food of Animals and of Plants—Process of Assimilation: its Nature and Relations—Function of Innervation—Essential Conditions of Correlation—Correlation in the lower Forms—Nerve-tissue in the lowest Organisms—Views of Beale—Innervation in Invertebrata and Vertebrata—Phenomena of “Instinct” . . . 171-194

CHAPTER XI.

Nature of the Reproductive Function—Various Forms of the Process—“Sexual” and “Asexual” Modes—“Sexual” Reproduction—“Asexual” Methods—“Gemmation” or “Budding,” and Fission—Examples of Fissiparous Reproduction—Illustrations of “Gemmation”—Internal and External Gemmation—“Alternation of Generations,” or “Metagenesis”—Illustrations of “Parthenogenesis”—Antagonistic Nature of Reproduction and Nutrition . . . 195-228

CHAPTER XII.

Development—Relations of Reproduction and Development—Structure of the Ovum in relation to its Development—Primary Stage of the Developmental Process—Formation of the Blastoderm—Community of First Stage of Development—Von Baer's

Law of Development—Second Stage of Special Development—Varieties of Ova—Development as seen in the various Subkingdoms—Nature of the Process in *Protozoa*—Third Stage of Development—"Nutritive Development"—Metamorphosis—"Retrograde" Development and Metamorphosis.

Pages 229-258

CHAPTER XIII.

"Heterogenesis" or "Spontaneous Generation"—Nature of the Subject—Development of Life in an Infusion—Molecules, Bacteria, and Vibrios—Doctrine of "Homogenesis" or "Biogenesis"—Nature and Definition—Historical Sketch of the subject—Doctrines of Redi—Experiments of Needham and Buffon—"Germ Theory" of Spallanzani—Experiments of Schulze, Schwann, Schröder, and Pasteur—Bastian's "Beginnings of Life"—Comparison of "Abiogenesis" and "Biogenesis"—Lister's Experiments—Conclusion . 259-278

CHAPTER XIV.

Distribution—Nature of the subject—Distribution in "Space" and in "Time"—Geographical Distribution: its Division and Aspects—"Zoological Provinces"—Conditions affecting the Distribution of Forms in Space—"Law of Geographical Succession"—Homomorphism and Distribution—"Bathymetrical" Distribution—Deep-Sea Life—Forbes' "Zones of Marine Life"—History and Progress of Deep-Sea Exploration—Conditions of Life in the Depths of the Sea—Influence of Pressure, Light, Temperature, Food-Supply, etc.—Distribution in "Time"—General Considerations—Fossils—Life-Epochs—Imperfection of the Geological Record—Conclusion 279-302

GLOSSARY 303-314

INDEX 315-327