

"impossible," "Such things cannot be," My reason revolts against such doctrines, "and much else to the same effect. Dogmas which are at once incomprehensible and inexplicable, they imagine should be treated as incredible. Hence the importance of realizing how quite equally incomprehensible and inexplicable are many of the most ordinary operations of Nature. All nature teems with insoluble mysteries. In every object however commonplace, there are great depths of which we can take no soundings; and dark chasms into whose lurid bowels we peer and peer, yet ever peer in vain. Now if so much of the natural world is a closed book to us, how much more should we expect the supernatural world to be."

"For instance" continues Mgr. Vaughan, after discussing the mysteries of magnetism and of the vegetable kingdom, "take the egg of any bird, if you please let us say a goldfinch. When first laid by the hen, what is it but— (1) an oval receptacle or box formed of lime or other calcareous matter; or in other words, a shell; and (2) filled with a thickish viscid glutinous substance. This substance is structureless and shapeless, and, for the most part almost colorless; yet, keep it in a suitable temperature for a few weeks, and it will become gradually transformed by the power of God acting through natural laws... into a living, breathing, sentient bird. Within the fragile shell, no thicker than your nail, changes and transformations are being gradually wrought so singular and mysterious, that I know not to what I can compare them, unless it be to the changes that the earth went through during the six days of creation when God brooded over the face of the deep, and drew order and symmetry out of chaos. A living being is being formed. The bones of leg and wing, the spiral column with all its articulations, the skull and pointed back and sharp claws emerge, as if by magic, from out the liquid mass. Not only is each brittle bone beautifully fashioned, exquisitely finished, and polished as smooth as ivory — each different yet all correlated — but they are knit together and adjusted with the utmost precision and harmony, and built up without hands, not anyhow, not at haphazard, but according to a distinct and definite plan. Then, without as much disturbance as would suffice to fracture the film of shell,