

WORLD-LIFE.

INTRODUCTION.

ANIMAL life and vegetable life appear to be the only two kinds of life at present known and understood by man; nevertheless it is quite possible that a third kind of life may actually exist, and not only exist, but be also in its nature and character as immeasurably superior to animal life, as animal life generally is to vegetable life.

The difference between animal and vegetable life is evidently so enormous, (generally speaking), that we might be disposed to dispute the existence of vegetable life, did not a comparison of the living growing tree, or plant, with the dead tree, or plant, compel us to admit that vegetable life does actually exist, although vegetable life is doubtless devoid of any kind of consciousness such as generally appertains to animal life.

One of the most remarkable facts about animal life is the wonderful wideness of its range; at one end of the scale being animals which can scarcely be distinguished from vegetables, so devoid are they apparently of all consciousness, or of sensation of any kind; while at the other end of the scale are animals which manifest *progressive* intellect which enables them to understand continually more and more of the wonders of the universe.

The *progressive* intellect peculiar to man is evidently the same quality of intellect which was manifested in the creation, or origination, of the various animal and vegetable organisms during the geological periods of the earth's history, (the simplest organisms being invariably originated first, and afterwards the more complex;) consequently we may very reasonably conclude that the one