

pregnant with importance, in so far as we know, as the most abstruse problems of the astronomer or the physicist, who endeavors to ascertain the composition and life-history of the remotest of our planets, or with the studies of the geologist who strives to decipher and to map out the life history of our own planet. In fact, the former often presents problems of the greatest practical scientific importance, since by the study of the common living things around us, and by the determination of their habits and modes of existence, the greatest benefits to the human race accrue.

The practical application of science in some one of its many forms is at the present day so universal that we have long since ceased to consider it as entering into the doings of our everyday life. Yet, when we allow ourselves to glance for a moment at the various processes going on around us, we are brought at once face to face with the fact that, even in the simplest and most ordinary avocations, its influence is everywhere visible. The word science is derived from the Latin word *scio*, meaning to *know*. There is, therefore, no mystery about the word itself in its general or ordinary acceptance, and it simply may be used as another term for knowledge in its highest and truest form. Science has been defined as, knowledge, certain and evident in itself, and the basis of all science as, the immutability of the laws of Nature and of events. The varieties of scientific knowledge are almost endless. Thus we have the science even of Mathematics, which deals with abstract truths, of Jurisprudence, of Logic, Chemistry, Astronomy, Geology, Rhetoric, Grammar, and a hundred others, including the more abstruse sciences of Metaphysics and Theology. Some of these may be regarded as speculative sciences; others deal with the material alone, and whatever theories arise are supposed to be founded entirely upon the facts which are ascertained during the processes of investigation. In this latter class may be placed those which deal with the phenomena of Nature, with which we more particularly have to do.

With many the idea appears to prevail that science is a thing of comparatively recent date, and in their egotism these suppose that the citizens of the nineteenth century should almost be permitted to claim for themselves a monopoly of the honors arising from the unravelling of Nature's secrets. While, without a doubt, the growth of knowledge