

The fact that theory is so much in disrepute is in part the result from the past, when facts were fewer and knowledge scantier than now, and, in consequence, the inquiring mind, rather than accept negation or be indifferent, had to resort to explanations, some of them fantastic elaborations, others shrewd guesses, of the phenomena within its ken. That these were intended only as makeshifts was only to have been expected and it is but natural that many of them should now be discarded. Those who are critics of the scientific method point exultingly to the list of these exploded theories and they are sometimes quite vociferous in denouncing what they are pleased to call Pseudo-Science. I recall with amusement once hearing a celebrated teacher of Greek dwell lovingly on the myths of Plato and immediately thereafter vigorously condemn the foolish theories of the men of science.

What the world would have been to-day without those theories one can but dimly fancy, but possibly we would still be in the Dark Ages. In reality, every theory that aroused opposition or dissent was a factor in stimulating mankind to think, and to think as clearly as it was at the time capable of doing. It has often happened that the individual with a passion to theorize has broken a popular idol and the intellectual life of mankind has gained thereby. Galileo theorized and the belief that the earth is the centre of the universe is extinct. Galvani, Volta and Faraday advanced their theories, and, as a result, we have the sciences of electricity and magnetism, through the aid of which we may some day arrive at a determination of the ultimate constitution of matter. Darwin's views as to the origin of species are not now accepted in toto by biologists, but is his fundamental position challenged to-day even by the man of the street? Can it be questioned that Darwin's theory, although rejected in part, has altered the intellectual outlook of mankind?

On the other hand, we have always with us the individual who is ever ready to extol men of science when they discover something that may be utilized by the inventor, the manufacturer or the engineer but who gives no heed to the long and often painful processes by which the result has been reached. Indeed, the result is too often thought due to a happy stroke of luck. It is this absence of correct information and clear conception as to what Science is, and how it is established, that is responsible in very large part for the loose thought and gullibility that are so prevalent. What to the public as a whole constitute the marvellous results of Science makes a large number of people ready to believe anything fantastical or extraordinary, and, in consequence, there is abroad a superstition of an exceedingly difficult character to