

that out of three hundred of the most distinguished naturalists thirty-eight do not speak of religious matters at all, and of the two hundred and sixty-two that do, fifteen are indifferent, five materialist, and two hundred and forty-two are theists—that is to say, eighty per cent. of this group of first rank scientists have no quarrel with religion. There are, moreover, many instances in which it would seem to be true that scientific knowledge, so far from being hostile, has been a profound and constant reinforcement to personal religion. There is an Italian saying to the effect that “a little knowledge separates from God ; much knowledge brings us back to God.” It is a circumstance of no little consequence to our present inquiry that as our scientific knowledge grows we are hearing ever less of the conflict of science and religion.

In any case, we may gather with not a little assurance that the situation has been relieved by the concurrence of several circumstances.