

only speak of tendencies. Second, it has transpired that intellectual processes are valid only in the region of dead matter, and that they are incapable of dealing with life. In the region of matter you can always assume that like causes will produce the same results—there the intellect is at home with its laws; but you can never tell what the next exploit of living nature will be, and it outstrips the intellect at every turn. Life runs riot, and no scheme of classification has yet been discovered that can keep pace with it.

So far then from being valid over the whole field, the truth seems to be that purely intellectual processes are only sound in one part of the field—that part which is concerned with matter and mechanical movement. Its concern is with what we call the “exact” sciences, mathematics, astronomy, physics, and the like. When it touches biology, when it tries to apprehend life, it speedily gets left behind; life outstrips and bursts through its most far-flung deductions.