

Suarez' time in the middle of the 16th century no progress was made in the evolution idea.

In the latter part of the seventeenth century and in the early part of the eighteenth there were three main classes of writers, viz.:—The Naturalists, the Speculative Evolutionists and the Natural Philosophers. To the latter class belong such eminent writers as Bacon, Descartes, Leibnitz and, belonging to the German School, Kant, Herder, Lessing and Schelling.

Bacon (1561-1626) was the most active of the early writers in pointing out the evidences of the mutability of species and in attempting to show the bearing which variation has upon organic progression. There was also shown at this time the analogy between artificial selection and natural selection. It is interesting to know that at this early period (beginning of 17th century) mutability of species was recognized and looked upon as a live question.

SCIENTISTS OF THE EIGHTEENTH AND NINETEENTH CENTURIES.

In the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, we find many writers of note propounding theories as to the manner in which species have originated. De Maillet (1656-1738) tried to show the influence exerted by habit and environment in inducing changes in the nature and form of a plant, but, unfortunately he went to extremes by claiming that modifications acquired during a single life were transmitted in toto.

Maupertuis (1698-1759) advanced a theory of generation resembling closely that of Darwin, and which anticipated to some extent the modern idea as to the causes of fortuitous variations.

Linnaeus, a Swede, (1707-1778) the great father of botany, marked the beginning of zoology and botany as now understood. The binary system of nomenclature proposed in his great work *Systema Naturae* enabled him to show the relation of animals and plants to each other. At first, Linnaeus looked upon species as having been created directly by the Creator and he believed in the absolute fixity of species. Later, however, he was compelled to alter his views somewhat owing to the multiplication of species which he observed everywhere in nature. We therefore see in the revision of *Systema Naturae*, which he made in 1760, a pronounced change, the mutability of species being more clearly recognized.

Buffon (1707-1788) took more radical views re the mutability of species than did Linnaeus, and laid the foundation of modern evolution in zoology and botany. He was the first to point out clearly the relationship between mutability of species and environment. He is thus the first to indicate some of the causes of mutability.