## 508 PROGRESS OF SCIENCE IN THE CENTURY.

it, prompting it to vary, eliminating it, is obvious. (2) To this environment, however, the organism reacts, modifying it, utilising it, and in some measure, perhaps, mastering it. In other words, function consists of action and reaction between the organism and the environment. (3) But in the third place, the organism is i genetic continuity with its ancestry, it is the expression of an inheritance, it has kin and it produces more. All biological interpretations must take account of the three facts:—environment, function, and kinship.

As biology came of age, its modes of interpretation were bound to have their influence on other studies; and this influence on sociology has been far more important than the idea of "a social organism." A method is better than a metaphor.

(I.) To interpret a social form we have to take account of locality, climate, fauna, and flora, and so on, in a word, *Lieu*; (II.) of the mode of life, the occupations, the doing and not-doing, in a word, *Travail*; and (III.) of natural inheritance and the facts of kinship, in a word, *Famille*.

(I.) Environment.—Although precise facts as to the influence of the environment on the organism are now more abundant for plants and animals than for man, it was apparently in reference to man that the idea first took hold. The theory that man was moulded by his surroundings is much older than Buffon and Erasmus Darwin, Lamarck and Treviranus who insisted, in various ways, on the environmental factor. But just as exact biological facts of environmental influence were scarce before the work of men like Semper, though interpretations in terms of supposed environmental influence were rife, so it must be confessed that most of the human illustra-