

THE UNITY OF SCIENCE, A SKETCH

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The unity of science, a sketch by Johan Hjort

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JOHAN HJORT

**THE UNITY OF
SCIENCE, A SKETCH**

THE UNITY OF SCIENCE



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THE UNITY OF SCIENCE

A Sketch

BY

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THE UNITY OF SCIENCE

I

INTRODUCTORY

NATURALISTS are generally disinclined to occupy themselves at all with philosophical questions. They have a feeling that science is based on mental processes more akin to those of the artist, and that abstract thought can give them nothing positive, nothing new, in their own sphere of work.

Yet it is not difficult to see that the study of nature is everywhere interwoven with philosophical ideas and problems. We encounter them constantly, even when dealing with highly specialised questions in a particular branch of study. Thus, for instance, there has grown up during the past thirty years an extensive literature, the work of zoologists and botanists, in which are discussed such philosophical theories as those of materialism and vitalism.