THE UNITY OF SCIENCE, A SKETCH

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The unity of science, a sketch by Johan Hjort

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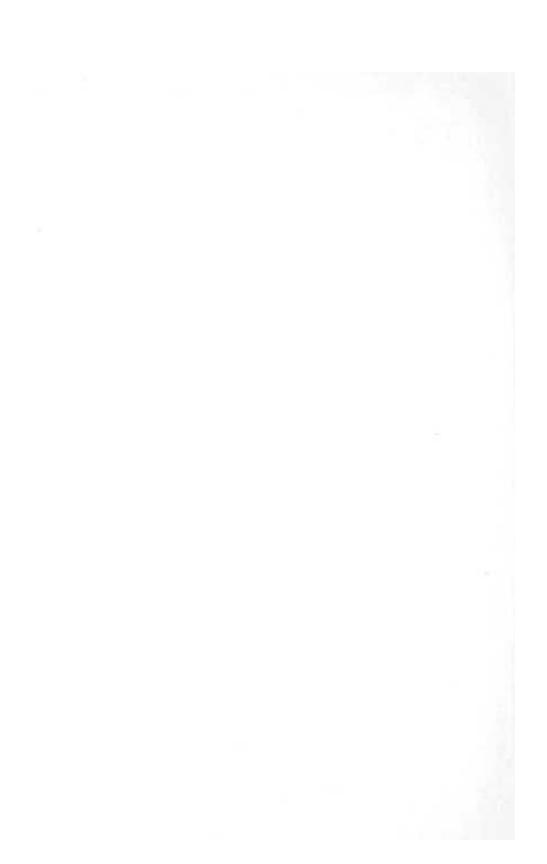
JOHAN HJORT

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THE UNITY OF SCIENCE





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THE UNITY OF SCIENCE

A Sketch

BY

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CHRISTIANIA



CONTENTS

I.	Introductor	Y		<u>1</u> 0	27	020		PAGE I
11.	Main Lines	OF 1	THE HISTO	RY OF	THE	PROBLE	м	
	in Pre-Evo					9	*	8
	ARISTOTL	Ε.	35	:	10	125		8
	DESCARTE	ts	8	to	533	8		15
	Hume	*	*	25	:		*	17
	KANT	95	*:	68	•		2	22
	CUVIER	3X	*	*	ŧ	3	÷	30
	JOHANNES	Mt	LLER		•	30.5	Œ	34
ш.	THE PROBLE	M IN	Modern	TIMES	•	32 5 2	7.5	37
	THE IDEA	OF	CHANCE	*	•13		12	39
	DARWIN	AND	DARWINIS	SM	2 (1)	1983		47
	FLUCTUAT	DNI	VARIATIO	NS	•3	::22	:::	52
	HEREDITA	RY	VARIATION	vs.	20	3.43		64
	DARWIN'S	IDE	A OF "US	eful \	ARL	ATIONS "	٠	81
	THE MEC	HAN	ISM OF AI	DAPTAT	ION			90

CONTINUE
CONTENTS

IV. "T	HE ENACT	SCIENC	es "	*)		103	9	PAGE 106
	GALILEO	:	×	**	٠			107
	Newton	*	×	£1		3)		111
	THE EMP	RICAL.	Scho	OL.	9	97	30	115
	Тик Тикс	RETIC	AL SC	поог	(4)	23	œ	116
	Атоміс Т	ньови	S	¥0.	0.00	84	*	118
	тик "Ех.	ACT ⁿ A	Етне	dr.	(4)	19	34	126
٧. Тн	e Unity o	r Scie	NCE	*)		3	×	137
	Мокепов	ogical.	SCIE	NCE	79	93		139
	Physiological Science.				66	15	130	151
	THE TELE	OFOGIA	AL V	IEW OF	NATI	CRN	93	1:8

ć

THE UNITY OF SCIENCE

I

INTRODUCTORY

ATURALISTS 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.