

our fresh-water flora and fauna not easily accounted for by one of the other methods are the modified descendants of those left in detached marine basins, but there is no justification for such an extreme view. Speaking broadly, we may say that those forms which are too feeble to migrate actively from the sea, and are unprovided with any means for securing their transport passively, are those which we should account for by this third method. It is very evident, however, that these questions involving the relations of organisms to their surroundings are of extreme complexity, and demand a degree of knowledge far beyond the small beginnings hitherto made. In many instances we may be suggesting theories which are quite far-fetched, and subsequent discovery may show much simpler explanations.

We turned our attention in the first instance to the very striking differences which exist between marine and fresh-water organisms, no matter in what quarter of the globe we compare them. If we turn now to a comparison between the fresh-water organisms of different parts of the world, we find an equally striking similarity between them. This uniformity of fresh-water organisms, sufficiently marked when we knew little outside the bounds of Europe, has become more and more strongly emphasised as information has been collected from the remoter regions of the world. It is not asserted that forms from widely separated fresh-water areas are necessarily identical, but we frequently find generic, and sometimes specific, resemblances, while there is a general uniformity far more pronounced than any to be observed in marine organisms. There are, of course, differences of a minor nature due to differences of climate, and these we must treat of in detail elsewhere; but we are concerned for the moment only with the very natural query: Why does this very definite uniformity exist?

Some of the facts which appear to offer a clue have already been indicated. We have examined at some length the dangers and difficulties to which forms colonising fresh water are exposed, and have pointed out the means adopted by different groups for overcoming them. Knowing this, we can explain why certain types only are to be found in all the fresh waters of the globe—they alone have been able to adapt themselves to the peculiar conditions. But when we leave on one side the actual origin of fresh-water life, and study the agencies which have secured the distribution of these forms from one centre to another, we gain more light on our problem at once.

It will be remembered that, under the heading of active and passive migration from the ocean, several methods were referred to which would be equally capable of effecting a general distribution within the limits of fresh water. It was no part of our proposition