

The "Aim of Life" —

Mercier ("Conduct & its disorders biologically considered") says "the main conclusion reached by the monumental discoveries of... the last Century, is that life is teleological, is directed to a purpose, and that that ultimate end... is the continuation of the race to which the organism belongs" —

I find this almost universal modern view somewhat askew: life, being existence if so of facts works towards itself. — But that does not constitute an aim; it's a free one Conclusion: all that does not

Tend to existence tend
also not to exist &
But "Life" is existence
Life" is not, as we
have a way of implying
an entity & still
less an entity with
a ~~more~~ choice of
means to be given the
name of life to a certain
group of facts, the facts of
being & continuity.

What cannot continue
or subserve continuance
ceases to continue,
i.e. Ceases to live.

I may be muddleheaded
but in all this I do
not see a purpose, an
aim, I see how
shall I put it? Only
a process implied in
the very definition of
what we are talking about.

the notion of life being teleological is in the first instance, inhu^med or transferred from the notion of God being teleological; and our ~~else~~ emphasis on the supposed teleology of life is, I suspect, ~~so~~^a a reaction from our former belief that life was ~~in~~ instrumental to God's glory having decided that life is not there ^⑥ in the sake of God's glory or any other apparent object, we erect life's being here as a supreme aim, something of the same kind as God's glory. ^⑦

But the essence of an aim
is surely that it is not
implied / in whatever
it is which has the aim.

The aim of God was
not to be God; it
was to be glorious.
But even theology
had confused the aim
of an entity with the
nature of an entity.
God was defined as
Being, as the one that
is; ~~but~~ whereas
to be is not a function
still less a directive
function but a
preliminary a sine
qua non of life
in the biological sense
and distinguished from
the psychological
one of conscious being.

is of course continuance
No continuance; no^o
life. Surely we have
confined too long
life the abstraction
with a life, with
the concrete continuance
continuance of any
particular living
being under observation

July 10
1916