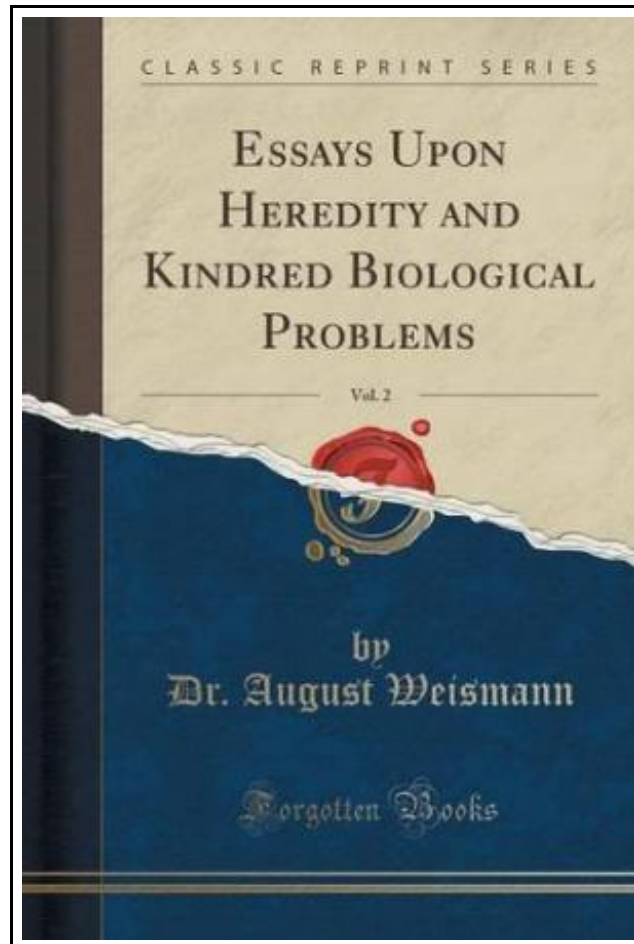


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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.Excerpt from *Essays Upon Heredity and Kindred Biological Problems, Vol. 2* The four essays which constitute this Second Volume supplement those of the First, by bringing forward new facts to support the earlier ideas, and by improving and completing the latter on the basis of the most recent discoveries. The first two essays afford further support to the arguments in favour of the non-transmission of acquired characters, inasmuch as they attempt to prove that these arguments hold in certain cases which at first sight appear to refute them. The diminution of parts which are no longer used has been explained in an earlier essay as the result of the cessation of natural selection, i.e. of panmixia. The conception that every part of the organism is maintained at the level it has reached only by means of the continued activity of natural selection, and that any intermission of this activity leads to a gradual diminution, has passed through many minds. Darwin himself appears to have held this idea, and Romanes, and especially Seidlitz, have more or less clearly expressed it. But the thought first attained its full significance when we arrived at the definite conclusion that the Lamarckian principle of modification had no real existence, because acquired characters, and hence the decrease which organs suffer by disuse, are not inherited. Thus every explanation of the existence of disused parts in a rudimentary state fails, except panmixia; and the conclusion was unavoidable that the countless characters which enter into our conception of a species can only be maintained at their present level by the ceaseless activity of natural selection. About the Publisher Forgotten Books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare...



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