



THE DAILY NEWS

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H. F. PULLEN, Managing Editor.

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DAILY EDITION

Thursday, October 8, 1925.

Third Article in the Series on Evolution Deals with Continuity of Life and Beginning of Mind

(By Julian Huxley in the Manchester Guardian)

The record of the rocks is but an imperfect one of which we only possess the concluding chapters. In the earliest fossiliferous strata almost all the main groups of animals are already to be recognised. This is so because earlier rocks have in part been eroded and denuded away to nothing, to supply material for new deposits; and in part because what is left has been so crushed and heated that all traces of fossil remains have been squashed or rotted out of recognisable existence. Our most direct evidence for evolution thus fails when we come to consider the relationship of the large groups to each other—e.g., of life to the insects with the vertebrates, life as one single stream of living matter, flowing onward in a myriad separate channels. Each individual has grown from a detached bit of some other individual, each species has developed from another earlier species, the study of comparative anatomy and the belief in continuity—a belief necessary as a basis for any scientific work—lead us to far-reaching conclusions.

We believe, for instance, on reasonably good grounds, that all higher animals are descended from some small three-layered type; that this, again, was derived from a two-layered type similar to the polyps we find alive today; and that all two-layered, many-celled animals, and these, together with the study of comparative anatomy and the belief in continuity—a belief necessary as a basis for any scientific work—lead us to far-reaching conclusions.

This complete continuity of all life is obviously an important general concept. Even more important is the second corollary, that our most economical hypothesis is to assume that living matter was itself originally evolved from non-living matter.

Here of course the evidence is vague and indirect only. One can merely say that there is nothing fundamental against it, a good deal for it, and that we are right on grounds of economy of hypothesis in adopting it until some more satisfactory alternative is advanced.

Mind and Matter

This has important bearings upon our notions of mind and its relations to matter. The manifestations of mind have evolved pari passu with those of matter; and we can draw no hard-and-fast line and say, here mind begins; below this life must be

mindless. No; the principle of continuity again demands that in all organisms from the lowest to the highest there shall inhere something which is of an essentially similar nature to mind in and, if we are willing to take ourselves. It may be as much the trouble of eliminating most below the level of our mind as of the wastage associated with the scarcely detectable electric changes accompanying the secretion of a gland cell are below those of a lightning flash, and it may be, and probably is at the start, of no direct use to its possessor.

Evolution the Link

The same conclusion, if we accept the view of the genesis of life from non-life, applies to matter that is not living. Thus evolution is the link between psychology and the physico-chemical sciences, and drives us towards the conclusion that the substance of which the universe is composed is not matter any more than it is mind, but a "world-stuff," an "X" for which we have as yet no name, which must always have both mental and material properties. So far we have no means of measuring or even detecting minute changes in mental properties, so that the knowledge which physics and chemistry give us of the world is confined to a knowledge of its material aspects.

In this way biology is a necessary corrective to physics and chemistry; and it is essential that if science is to be taught in schools it shall not be only physical and chemical science but shall include some biology as well. It is of importance as a corrective too in another important respect—namely, in emphasising evolutionary progres-

Fact of Progress

Here we return to more concrete ground and more definite evidence. The fact of progress, in any real sense of the word, having taken place in the course of evolution is often denied even by professional biologists. But this is a good case of not seeing the wood for the trees.

It is usually denied on the ground that survival is the only true biological test, and that therefore all organisms which manage to exist are more or less equally "high." However, a mere glance at human invention will show us that this is a wrong way to look at the problem. Hand-carts and horse drawn vehicles still survive in the streets of London, but nobody would deny that the mechanically propelled vehicle represents real progress over the horse drawn—is on the whole a "higher type."

What is forgotten is not only that the lower type can often exist alongside of the higher by virtue of its being suited to certain kinds of function, but also that sometimes the continued existence of the lower type is the foundation for that of the higher.

Railways were for decades the highest type, in most respects, of human locomotive mechanism, but they would not be satisfactory without the continued existence of the earlier and "lower" road traffic. Thus we shall only expect to measure progress by the rise of achievement's upper level, not to find it simultaneously throughout all life.

As the Biologist Sees it

Progress is to be measured by other standards than mere survival. Efficiency of individual parts, greater strength and size, better co-ordination of the parts to produce a more harmonious and single whole—these are the objective signs of biological progress. And they lead to greater control by the organism over its environment, and its greater independence of its environment.

As a matter of observed fact, one of the most striking aspects of biological progress to be observed in the geological history of the higher animals is the great relative increase in the size of the brain—seen in nearly all groups of mammals in the early and middle Tertiary, and still more markedly, but only in a single line, in the later Tertiary, with as result the genesis of man.

Trustees of Evolution

This whole topic of biological progress is of the greatest general interest. For one thing, we are enabled to see on the broadest scale the gradual increase in the importance of brain and mind relative to the rest of the organic machinery, culminating in man with his complete dominance of mind. Then it shows us our own place in the scheme of things, and a moving instead of a stationary scheme. We are the trustees, Frank Blasher and

trustees of evolution; our ideas George Gross, have a ton of progress point us, on the ore at the wharf here from the whole, in the same direction. Heels group on Texas Creek which was traced by pre-human which they staked less than a progressive evolution. But in month ago. The ore, which runs

pre-human evolution a blind and slow mechanism was at work; with us, a purposeful consciousness capable of accelerating the process almost indefinitely, and, if we are willing to take ourselves. It may be as much the trouble of eliminating most below the level of our mind as of the wastage associated with the scarcely detectable electric changes accompanying the secretion of a gland cell are below those of a lightning flash, and it may be, and probably is at the start, of no direct use to its possessor.

THE MAN IN THE MOON

says:

GERMAN dogs are all the rage. There is the police dog and also the hot dog.

THERE are lots of substitutes for food. For example there is the material served at late suppers.

NOW that we are well underway with the elections and no personalities are allowed, what about a few quiet bets on the result?

JAKE says he is willing to bet Nick gets over a hundred votes in town. In fact I think if he was tempted he would go two to one on it.

ELECTIONS are like horse races, Jake. You are liable to lose a lot of money on them if you get rash.

THE flapper is like the Canadian Senate, difficult to reform yet both are irresponsible.

ALL three local candidates are good men. They all admit it.

A LOT of people are ignorant of love but not so a taxi-driver.

AMONG the things that won't get you anywhere in this election is betting on either of the two losing candidates.

JAKE says he is not sure which candidate will win but he thinks he can point out the two losers.

YOU have heard about politicians changing sides but that is nothing to the ordinary elector, who has a different story for each candidate.

IN Manitoba they are blaming Mackenzie King for the snow and here the people of Georgetown are blaming him for the shortage of water. It is understood some of the elevator employees are kicking because the job was finished too quickly. Page Nickerson, there.

NOW that Bushby and his high tariff, Nickerson and his low tariff and Stork and his medium tariff have been heard from, what about getting to work and earning enough cash to pay the board tariff, at the place where I eat.

Ten Years Ago in Prince Rupert

October 8, 1915.

Capt. Duncan McKenzie of the steamer Prince Rupert reported this morning that he had passed the steamer Mariposa of Seattle on the rocks about a mile below Bella Bella. She was high and dry forward with her after decks and her lifeboats were drawn up on the beach.

Chief Vickers reported to the police commission yesterday afternoon that fines during the month of September totalled \$24,450. There were 42 cases in court resulting in 36 convictions.

Boston defeated Philadelphia by 2 to 1 in the second game of the world series this afternoon, making one victory for each team now. Among the spectators was President Wilson. The game was played at Philadelphia.

STEWART

G. W. Smith has been appointed registrar of voters for Stewart and J. P. Hawkinson deputy returning officer at the forthcoming federal election.

Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Bartholomew have left for Nevada where they will spend the winter.

Henry Hummel and his associates, Frank Blasher and George Gross, have a ton of progress point us, on the ore at the wharf here from the whole, in the same direction. Heels group on Texas Creek which was traced by pre-human which they staked less than a progressive evolution. But in month ago. The ore, which runs

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