

Darwinism in the Schools

When Mr. Bryan spoke at Lexington, Kentucky, recently, he quoted from some of the text books to show what was being taught in the public schools. Some of the evolutionists denied that Darwinism was being taught. Rev. J. W. Porter, who arranged the Bryan meeting, answered the evolutionists by presenting the following quotations from books used:

"In the early part of the last half of the century—1859—occurred what may be fairly called the most important event in the history of biological science, the publication of Charles Darwin's Origin of Species. Up to this time the ideas of evolution advanced by Buffon, Lamarck, St. Hilaire and Erasmus Darwin had not received recognition among zoologists, to say nothing of the great mass of teachers, writers and scholars. But with the Origin of Species began a storm of discussion and debate out of which there has arisen a calm and sane acceptance of the gradual development of the various forms of plant and animal life by a process of evolution. Darwin gathered such a mass of facts and marshaled his proofs in such a clear, logical manner that the world could not deny the force of his arguments or escape the convincing power of his conclusions."—Text-book in General Zoology, by Herrick, pp. 378, 379. (Public schools of Lexington.)

The following is the Family Tree, given by the same author:

- "Order—Primates.
- "Types of Order.
- "Lemur.
- "Baboon.
- "Orang-outang.
- "Chimpanzee.
- "Gorilla.
- "Man."

—General Zoology, by Herrick, p. 340.

The Primates, the group that includes man, seem to have descended from primitive Insectivora. The line of descent within the group is probably somewhat as follows:

1. Egg-laying Mammals.
2. Marsupials.
3. Insectivores.
4. Lemurs.
5. Old World Monkeys with Tails.
6. Anthropoid Apes.
7. Pithecanthropus—An Extinct "ape-man."
8. The Extinct Neanderthal Man.
9. Modern Man.

—College Zoology, Hegner, p. 696. (Kentucky State University.)

"Some fossil remains of a primate that were found in the upper Pliocene on the island of Java have been designated by Haeckel as 'the last link' between the apes and man, and the animal to which they belonged has been given the name Pithecanthropus erectus."—Hegner's Zoology, p. 666.

"No one knows when and where life originated on the earth. Many of the ancients believed that animals were created by divine providence, but this theory of special creation is not accepted by present day zoologists."—Hegner's College Zoology, p. 12.

"This process of developing new species is called evolution by variation and natural selection. The ancestors of the three-toed horses were four-toed animals whose remains are found in the layers of rock beneath those containing the three-toed ones. By this process of variation and natural selection the four-toed forms derived from a five-toed mammal with such a generalized structure that other of its progeny developed into sheep, cows and deer in accordance with the various foods and changing factors in nature to which they were subjected. Thus, by variation and natural selection numerous and widely different kinds of animals arose."—Practical Zoology, Alvin Davison, p. 349, 350. (Lexington Public Schools.)

"These facts, cited in the preceding paragraphs together with much other information discovered by the zoologists and geologists, lead to the conclusion that at first there existed on earth only a few forms of simple life similar to the amoeba, and from these acted on by the rapid changes of climate, soil, water and food, have arisen all the varied forms of animal life."—Practical Zoology, Alvin Davison, p. 354.

"The loss of man's hairy covering is evidence of his origin in a temperate or cold temperate climate, where he found clothing necessary to protect himself from the inclemencies of the weather."—Geology-Physical and Historical,

Cleland, page 686. Kentucky State University.)

"Eoliths, the crudest of flint implements. Believed to have been made by ape-man. . . . The discovery, near Heidelberg, Germany, of a lower jaw of a very low type in early Pleistocene deposits said to contain eoliths, is important, since it gives a clue to the makers of these flints. This lower jaw is massive, with an essentially human set of teeth, its most noticeable feature being the absence of a chin projection. In other words, it is the jaw of an anthropoid (manlike) ape with the dentition of a man. As compared with the oldest Paleolithic skulls. . . . A creature (Pithecanthropus erectus) whose fragmentary remains have been found in the Pleistocene deposits of Java, associated with the bones of extinct animals may have also been a member of a race which made eoliths. These remains consist of a skull cap, two molar teeth and a diseased thigh bone and are remarkable for their combination of ape and human characters. . . . the teeth are human with certain apelike characters, and the thigh bone is considered to be intermediate."—Geology, Physical and Historical, pp. 675, 676.

"Darwin's theory was, in short, that species did not endure unchanged, but, owing to constant variations, those best fitted to survive escaped destruction in the constant struggle for existence, and transmitted their advantageous characteristics to their offspring. The idea that all plants and animals, and even man himself, had developed instead of being created in their present form, and that man belonged, physically, to the 'primates' the group of animals which includes the apes, shocked a great number of people, and the subject began to be discussed with no little heat and some times with much indignation by men of science, theologians, and the cultivated public in general. . . . A great part of those who have received a scientific training, accept the general theory of evolution as confidently as that of universal gravitation. . . . The cells are composed of a gelatinous substance, to which the name of protoplasm was given by the botanist Mohl in 1846. All life was shown to have its beginning in this protoplasm."—Outlines of European History, Part II, Robinson & Beard, pp. 665-667. (Public Schools of Lexington.)

"My reply to Dr. Porter's question as to how I stand on the Genesis accounts of the Creation and the Flood, is that of course, I do not accept those accounts as descriptive of actual events. No biologist or geologist today with the least regard for his scientific reputation accepts those accounts as fact. . . . The conclusion is irresistible that no modern geologic catastrophic event, such as a universal deluge would have been, has intervened to disturb the orderly development and distribution of life upon the earth."—Professor of Geology, State University, Lexington Herald, August 8, 1920.

"And finally we come to the question 'what about the soul?' when does it enter in the process of evolution? This is invariably the last bolt of the theological objection. Darwin's observation on this supposed objection to evolution is appropriate here:

"Few people feel any anxiety from the impossibility of determining at what precise period in the development of the individual from the first trace of the minute germinal vesicle, man becomes an immortal being; and there is no greater cause for anxiety because the period cannot possibly be determined in the gradually ascending organic scale.

"In the case of the origin of the soul, however, we may define the soul, and whatever properties we assign to it, we have as in the case of the origin of any powers of the body, or faculties of the mind—as will, reason, conscience—evidently to do with the phenomena of growth. . . . in embryological development, as proved 'empirically,' that is as the result of experiment and observation, each power of the mind arises so gradually, that at no time can it be said that just before a certain moment the power or faculty did not exist. This is the mystery of creation—creation by evolution if you please, but none the less creation. It is the principle of the 'coming in of something new, gradually.'"—Professor of Geology, State University, in Lexington Herald, August 8th, 1920.

Anyone who is interested in pursuing the subject can find ample evidence in nearly all the zoologies and biologies used in the public schools and universities. While no one is defending Darwinism, today, all the evolutionists rush to the defense of Darwin whenever he is attacked because most of them accept his hypothesis while they reject the reasons that he gives. No one else has attempted to explain how lower orders of life produced man. Every evolutionist who applies the evolutionary hypothesis to man

believes that man, instead of being created by the Almighty, has in him the blood of the brute or the blood of a lower form of life—some believing that man branched off from the tree below the point at which animals appeared. Some would make the ape a collateral relative instead of an ancestor—a cousin instead of a grandpa.

The important question just now is whether teachers, paid by taxation, shall be permitted to substitute an unsupported hypothesis for the Bible account of creation. Shall teachers be permitted to compliment your little boy by calling him the son of an ape, or a descendent of any other animal, bird, reptile, or fish? Why not let him believe that he is "the child of a King," created by the Heavenly Father?

W. J. BRYAN.

AN EARNEST ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Mr. James E. Mercer, law enforcement officer for the southeastern states has headquarters at Atlanta. As evidence of his earnestness he publishes an appeal to the people of his part of the country. As the matter is of nation-wide importance The Commoner publishes the appeal for the benefit of lawabiding citizens everywhere. Mr. Mercer's suggestions are as follows:

"Justice delayed is often Justice defeated.
"Every child of Liberty submits to the yoke of the Law.

"Liberty exists in proportion of wholesome restraint.

"The boot-logger and the bolshevik are in the same class.

"The only sound view of government is that of law enforcement.

"If there were fewer bad lawyers there would not be so many lynchings.

"He who would undermine respect for the law is an enemy of law and of orderly government.

"It is the duty of faithful officials to enforce and the part of good citizens to obey the law.

"Those charged with law enforcement must enforce all the laws. They cannot exercise any right of choice.

"The argument of undue abridgment of personal liberty advanced today has in the past been advanced by every CHAMPION OF LAWLESSNESS.

"To ask or to expect laxity of law enforcement is to contribute to lawlessness and destroy the basis upon which YOUR SECURITY RESTS.

"If our civilization ever yields to the false doctrine of personal liberty, it will go the way of the nations long since passed into history.

"Lawyers who resort to sharp practices to delay justice discredit the judicial system of our country. Some ethical remedy for the aggravating evil should be applied.

"Reverence for the law, respect for the courts, and support of the officers of the law, depend largely upon those who occupy the vantage ground of life in business and in society.

"The people of the United States by solemn constitutional and statutory enactment have undertaken to suppress the age-long evil of the liquor traffic. The absolute success of the undertaking is purely a matter of time.

"When lawyers, bankers, merchants, manufacturers, business and social leaders, both men and women, violate the prohibition or any other law, they are aiding the rule of anarchy and promoting mob violence, robbery, homicide; they are sowing the dragon's teeth and need not be surprised when they find that no judicial or police authority can save the country or humanity from reaping the harvest."

WHY NOT TAX EXCESS PROFITS

Louisville Courier-Journal. Apropos of Secretary Mellon's opposition to the bonus, Hanford MacNider remarked the other day that the Secretary would do well to stop arguing and figure out some way to raise the money to pay for it.

Mr. Mellon, who is no doubt grateful for this definition of his duty, has done so.

He estimates that \$300,000,000 can be raised by

- (1) taxing each automobile owner fifty cents per horsepower;
- (2) increasing the cost of first-class postage from two cents to three;
- (3) putting a two-cent tax on each bank check;
- (4) causing the tax on tobacco to be increased two cents a pound and the tax on cigarettes fifty cents per thousand;
- (5) inaugurating a documentary stamp tax and increasing second-class postage.

Since Mr. Mellon figures the bonus would cost \$425,000,000 annually for the first two years, still other taxable sources would have to be uncovered to make up the deficit.