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Recent Opinions of Biologists on Evolution: 2nd Edition

Evolution Protest Movement

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In a letter dated December 22nd, 1944, Theodosius Dobzhansky, Professor of Genetics at Colombia University, New York, wrote to Frank L. Marsh, Professor of Biology, Union College, Nebraska: " Of course I continue to believe that evolution is a theory established beyond reasonable doubt. I used to think also that no reasonable person acquainted with the pertinent evidence can possibly fail to see the truth of this theory. As the result of reading your book and of our correspondence, I must change the latter belief—you are at least one reasonable and informed person who is not convinced."

The above passage shows amazing ignorance on the part of Prof. Dobzhansky, and reveals the extent to which the facts that militate against the theory of evolution are kept out of textbooks in the U.S.A. and Great Britain, because this ignorance is not confined to Professor Dobzhansky.

Edward M. East, Professor of Genetics, Harvard University, wrote in 1931: " Only those unfamiliar with the evidence have the impudence to claim that the evolution concept is an undemonstrated hypothesis." (*Biology in Human Affairs*, p. 21). And no less a person that E. S. Goodrich, Linacre Professor of Zoology and Comparative Anatomy, University Museum Oxford wrote: (Ency. Brit. Vol. 8, p. 917) " It is now universally admitted by competent biologists that all organisms, living or extinct, have arisen from remote common ancestors by a process of gradual change or evolution, and further, that living matter or ' life ' itself, in all probability arose from non-living matter in the first stages of this evolutionary process."

Some idea of the ignorance of those who made the above pronouncements may be gathered from the statements made since 1920 by the biologists listed below. Against the name of each is given the year in which his criticism of the theory of evolution was published in some book or scientific journal.

1920—D. CARRAZZI (Zoologist) Professor of Zoology in the University of Padua, and author of *Il Dogma dell' Evoluzione*. This book (of which the title speaks for itself) contains a list of biologists who had prior to 1920 openly expressed disbelief in evolution.

1924—G. McCREADY PRICE (Geologist) author of *The New Geology, The Phantom of Evolution* and other books, wrote: (*The New Geology*, p. 291) " Sometimes when species are

found in kinds of rocks where they are not at all expected, and when according to prevailing theories, it is quite incredible that they should be found . . . the not very honourable expedient is resorted to of inventing a new name, generic or specific, to disguise and gloss over the strange similarity between them and the others which have already been assigned to wholly different formations.

1925—G. BARRY O'TOOLE (Zoologist), Professor of Animal Zoology, Seton Hill College, U.S.A. in the preface to his book *The Case against Evolution* wrote: "We shall endeavour to show that Evolution has long degenerated into a dogma, which is believed in spite of the facts, and not on account of them."

1925—GIULIO FANO (Physiologist), Director of the Institute of Osteology and General Physiology at the University of Rome. His great work entitled *Brain and Heart* was translated into English and published by the Oxford University Press. In it he declared (p. 41) that the theory of evolution cannot be proved, many facts cannot be reconciled with it and it is accepted mainly on account of the popularity of the doctrine of continuity.

1929—LOUIS VIALLETON (Zoologist), Professor of the Faculty of Medicine of Montpellier, wrote in his *L'Origine des Etres Vivants, L'Illusion Transformiste* (p. 381): "Seventy years after Darwin's famous book, the researches and reflections it originated, far from confirming the hopes of the master and filling the lacunae in his doctrine, have only demonstrated the inadmissibility of the proofs of it at first put forward, and its inability, with the aid of natural forces, to account for the formation of the living world; the transformist illusion has been exposed to broad daylight."

1930—O. KLEINSCHMIDT (Ornithologist), author of *The Formenkreis Theory* and *The Progress of the Organic World,* believed that every small group of species (formenkreis or circle of forms) was separately created.

1933—ALBERT FLEISCHMANN (Zoologist), Professor of Zoology and Comparative Anatomy in Erlangen University, author of *Die Descendenz Theorie,* wrote: "The theory of evolution suffers from grave defects, which are becoming more and more apparent as time advances. It can no longer be squared with practical scientific knowledge, nor does it suffice for our theoretical grasp of the facts." (*The Doctrine of Organic Evolution in the Light of Modern Research.* Trans. Victoria Inst. Vol. LXV, p. 194).

1935—DESMOND P. MURRAY (Zoologist and Entomologist) author of *South African Butterflies. A Monograph of the Family Lycaenidae* writes (p. 23): "That one should be so eager to trace back all living organisms to a common ancestor appears to be unreasonable, as well as being at variance with facts shown; the theory is scientifically unsound . . . There are in truth no clear facts in favour of specific evolution. The Darwinian principle of indefinite variability is contrary to facts."

1935—HERIBERT NILSSON (Botanist and Plant Geneticist) writes: "The theory of evolution has not been verified by experimental investigations of the origin of species." (Hereditas, Vol. XX, pp. 227, 237).

1938—E. L. GRANT WATSON (Zoologist), author of *Enigmas of Natural History* and *More Enigmas of Natural History* writes: "Evolutionists often use the simile of a tree to indicate the relation of species to each other, and to extinct forms, and to the forms that are assumed to be ancestral forms . . . Now the fact to which I wish to draw attention are these: That the existing species or the extinct fossil species do not exist anywhere on the connecting branches, but must all be regarded as terminals: the vast body of the tree of evolution is entirely imaginary, and no material creatures have been found to correspond with it." (*Facts at Variance with the Theory of Organic Evolution,* Trans. Victoria Inst. vol. LXX, p. 11).

1939—J. LEFEVRE (Zoologist), Director du Laboratoire de Bioenergetique, Paris, writes: "Transformism has lost the extraordinary popularity it enjoyed less than fifty years ago. Nevertheless, whether by materialist fanaticism, or by an illusion of scientific appearance, or by lack of culture or reflection or method, the transformist faith (to use the expression of the transformist Carl Vogt) still persists. It is therefore necessary to examine it very critically."

1939—W. BELL DAWSON (Geologist), author of *Evolution contrasted with Scripture Truth,* wrote: "Geology affords the best field in which to trace the succession of living beings. We find there, two outstanding features: First, in each type of life, there were in the past more highly developed forms, as well as greater variety than in the world to-day . . . long ages without any change whatever . . . Statements similar to these can also be made regarding the realm of plants." *Evolution and its Danger,* p. 1).

1939—G. K. HEBBERT(Zoologist and Entomologist), author of *A Biologist's Views on Evolution,* writes: (p. 5) " The evidence of the fossils very definitely favours Creation and not the Evolution theory. The Evolution theory bristles with anatomical and biochemical difficulties."

1939—PAUL LEMOINE (Geologist), Director of the National Museum at Paris, author of *Geologie de Madagascar,* and editor of the volume of the French Encyclopedia entitled *Les Etres Vivants,* writes: (5. 82. 8) " The theory of Evolution is impossible. At base, in spite of appearances, no one any longer believes in it. (Referring to French biologists) . . . Evolution is a kind of dogma which the priests no longer believe, but which they maintain for their people."

1940—MAURICE THOMAS (Zoologist), author of *Le Transformisme contre la Science* writes: " The whole animal kingdom rises up against the transformist conception," and " All these elements assign very narrow limits to the variability of organisms which the transformist philosophy can only clear by taking a perilous leap into the domain of pure philosophy." (*Revue des Questions Scientifiques,* vol. 117, p. 23).

1940—EDGAR CHANCE (Ornithologist), author of *The Truth about the Cuckoo,* writes: (p. 197) " Because fish have fins and birds have wings is no reason for saying they had the same ancestors. Surely it really proves the same Designer. This similarity of design and all these links which are used by the materialistic evolutionist to prove that all life had the same materialistic origin, to my mind far more convincingly prove that all forms of life were created by the same Designer."

1941—ARTHUR P. KELLEY (Botanist), Head of the Landenberg Laboratory writes: " Evolution cannot exist for a moment without demonstrable transformations. But botanical phenomena provide us with no transformations—not even one." (*Some Hiatuses in the Plant Kingdom and their Significance,* Trans. Vict. Inst. Vol. LXXIII, p. 146).

1943—L. MERSON DAVIES (Geologist), author of *The Bible and Modern Science,* writes: " The ' mutability of organic types ' is a most hoary concept; totemists having long preceded Darwinists in advocating it, and the mythologies and fairy-tales of all nations being packed with it. Darwin neither invented the concept nor proved it true. He only made it look respectable. But he thereby earned the undying gratitude of all who, dissatisfied with real science, find in Darwinian

speculations warrant for further speculations regarding some future *Regnum Dei* which appeals to their often dehumanised and de-rationalised minds." (*The Nineteenth Century and After,* vol. CXXIV, p. 81).

1944—FRANK L. MARSH (Zoologist and Botanist), Professor of Biology, Union College Nebraska, author of *Fundamental Biology,* writes: " If evolutionists had not wasted a generation of hard work in trying to pick up a trail which never existed, biology would be at least a generation further along in the discovery of the laws and processes which do exist." (*Evolution, Creation and Science,* p. 285).

1944—DOUGLAS DEWAR (Zoologist and Ornithologist), author of *Difficulties of the Evolution Theory, More Difficulties of the Evolution Theory,* and *Man a Special Creation,* writes: " I contend that it is impossible for any kind of land animal to have changed into a whale by a series of slight modifications that took place in successive generations; I have repeatedly challenged transformists to describe feasible ancestors in the middle stages of the supposed transformation." (*What the Animal Fossils Tell Us,* Trans. Vict. Inst. vol. LXXIV, p. 35) and " The creation theories explain the fossil record far better than do those of evolution, and, as the latter involve impossible transformation, they ought to be abandoned." (*ibid* vol. LXXVI, p. 75).

1947—BERNARD ACWORTH (Lepidopterist) writes (*Butterfly Miracles and Mysteries,* 1947, p. XII): " While endeavouring to solve some *mysteries,* the author hopes that he will be able to re-establish in the minds of some, who may have come to doubt it, that miracles, in the strict sense of that rather loosely used term, are still being manifested daily before our eyes, and during every moment of time in every corner of this planet."

1948—GEOFFREY TAYLOR (Entomologist) said in a Radio Eirann broadcast published in *The Irish Monthly* of March, 1948, " Darwin's *Origin of Species* and Marx's *Das Capital* . . . heralded the two great secular faiths of modern times—Evolutionism and Communism. Let me say at once that I believe both these faiths to be wrong; that each enshrines not a truth, but an illusion . . . Also they are in my opinion to some extent connected and intertwined."

The above list (which is far from exhaustive, particularly as regards botanists) includes only zoologists, botanists and geologists.

In addition to these scientists there are numerous anthropologists, doctors of medicine, physicists and chemists who reject the

theory of evolution. Of the anthropologists mention may be made of RADIN, BOAS, GOLDENWEISER, SAPIR, SWANTON, WISSLER, BREUIL, TEILHARD, BOIGELOT, KROEBER and GAMELLI.

Kroeber writes (*American Anthropologist,* 1917, p.70): " There is scarcely an enthnologist in this country, in France or in Germany who does not believe the narrow simple method of the classic English evolutionary school to be sterile." Gamelli writes (*L'Origine de la Famille* 1923, p.58): " The primitive man appeared on earth in the full meaning of the word (so at least research shows), that is without any intermediate stage which would unite him with the higher species of animals.

Among the Doctors of Medicine who openly reject evolution mention may be made of BLAIR, PETTIT, BROWN, HALLIDAY SUTHERLAND, O'GORMAN, HOWITT, McNAIR WILSON and F. GORDON CAWSTON. Of these, Prof. B. M. Blair (Regius Professor of Anatomy in the University of Glasgow) writes: (*Some Notes on the Teaching of Biology,* p.15) " No evolutionary theory explains satisfactorily all the known facts of scientific observation, and no satisfactory demonstration or explanation has yet been given of the changes which are the essential stepping stones of any theory of evolution by descent. The increase of scientific knowledge, notably in the fields of genetics and experimental embryology, renders more than ever untenable the crude theories of the past."

Arthur I. Brown writes (*Footprints of God,* 1943, p. 218) of instincts of animals: " There can be but one explanation of these remarkable gifts and that explanation is creation." R. McNair Wilson writes (*The Witness of Science* (1924), p. 11): " Increase of knowledge about biology has tended to emphasize the extreme rigidity of type and, more and more, to discount the idea of transformation from one type to another: the essential basis of Darwinism."

Among the Physicists who have attacked evolution are L. T. More, Professor of Physics, University of Cincinnati, author of *The Dogma of Evolution*; Sir Ambrose Fleming, inventor of the thermionic valve, and author of *Creation or Evolution;* and Dr. R. E. D. Clark, who wrote: (*Transactions of the Victoria Institute,* London (1943)) " The more carefully the matter is considered the clearer does it become that the theory of evolution of highly organised organisms from simple ones violates a fundamental principle of science." R. E. D. Clark's recently published *Darwin*: *Before and After* is a devastating attack on the theory.

The number of learned men, who are not scientists, and who have very severely criticised the theory of evolution is legion.

In conclusion mention should be made of some biologists who are nominally evolutionists, but whose books seem to us to be formidable attacks on the theory:

AUSTIN H. CLARK of the American National Museum, author of *The New Evolution-Zoogenesis* (1930).

O. H. SCHINDEWOLF, author of *Palaeontologie, Entwicklungslehre und Genetik* (1936).

R. GOLDSCHMIDT, Professor of Zoology in the University of California, and author of *The Material Basis of Evolution* (1940).

J. C. WILLIS, formerly Director of the Botanic Gardens, Rio de Janeiro and author of *The Course of Evolution* (1940).

SIR D'ARCY WENTWORTH THOMPSON, Professor of Natural History, St. Andrew's University, author of *On Growth and Form* (1943).

SIR ARTHUR C. SEWARD, Professor of Botany at Cambridge University, author of *Geology for Everyman* (1943).

To the above should be added the names of those whom the French geologist, Paul Lemoine, calls " evolutionists who do not believe in evolution." Two of these are the French geologists, LOUIS ROULE and CAMILLE ARAMBOURG. Into this category appear to come Professor F. WOOD JONES, who is a zoologist, the geologists, FREDERICK E. ZEUNER and A. N. SEWERTZOFF who speak of " Explosive evolution," for which Sewertzoff has invented the name *aromorphosis*. This last seems to be a face-saving description of special creation.

The above facts expose the absurdity of the assertions quoted above of Professors Dobzhansky, East and Goodrich. But we must not be too hard on these gentlemen, because to quote Dewar and Davies (*Nineteenth Century and After,* Feb., 1945): " Biological students are being taught at school, college and university that evolution is a law of nature; and all facts opposed to it are withheld from them. So they leave their university in complete ignorance of the true state of affairs. While in this condition many of them to take up some branch of research work, and view everything through evolutionary spectacles, regarding any data that oppose their beliefs as ' anamolous ' and requiring to be explained away, while any seeming coincidence with their views is immediately and uncritically hailed as further ' proof ' of evolution. Others teach biology, and so innocently pass on what they have been taught without even encountering the ' anomalous ' facts."

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