

The Earth Speaks to Man

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twenty thousand years ago, we have overwhelming evidence of a very considerable ritual, and capacity for self-expression.

As I read the testimony of the rocks there can be but one scientific explanation of its meaning. Consider the endless series of faunas and floras that have been uncovered, each slightly different in types and grouping from what was older or younger—the whole run through with the warp of relationship but with a never ending change in the woof with the progress of time. Either they are genetically related or we have to assume that a creator, by some act of destruction and of special creation thousands of times repeated, destroyed the whole organic world and re-created all the myriads of living forms. Not only so, but each new creation was so like the preceding that training is required to discriminate them, and the new models were created with vestigial and useless parts—reduced replicas of parts that were functional in their predecessors. I do not deny that Omnipotence could do this, but such a conclusion is not scientific, nor does it do credit to the Infinite.

Although much remains to be discovered, we now know enough to affirm most emphatically that man as well as all other animals and plants has had a long evolutionary history extending over tens of thousands, and in some cases millions of years. The evolution of man as an animal was completed long before written history was invented, his most astonishing evolution has been the latest and more rapid development of the intellect, and there seems to me to be no limit to the betterment of the race by the exercise of wisdom, altruism and idealism—that trinity of what might be called spiritual graces.

Science News-Letter, November 13, 1926

There are about 1,000,000 ground squirrels in Yellowstone Park.

Grafted skin is best taken from another part of the same individual.

Elephants for circuses and zoos are in such demand that the price of a fine specimen is steadily rising.

If de-inking of newspapers so that the paper can be used again comes into wide use, the pulp wood saving would amount to same 275,000 acres of spruce wood.

STUDY HELPS FOR SCIENCE CLASSES

These articles will be found to be especially useful in class work

GENERAL SCIENCE

Earth Speaks to Man, p. 97. Observing the Stars to See if America Drifts, p. 99. Yaquis Fighting for Life, p. 101. Sun's Heat Varies, p. 103. Two Meteor Showers This Month, p. 105. Two New Comets, p. 111. Articles marked with * in classification below.

HYGIENE

City Water Must Be Pure, p. 107. Statues Show Foot Troubles, p. 107. Smallpox This Year, p. 111.

CHEMISTRY

First Enzyme Isolated,* p. 97.

BIOLOGY

First Enzyme Isolated,* p. 97. Studies Giant Cells, p. 101. Man Has Long Old Age,* p. 103. Embryo Determines Growth, p. 103.

PHYSICS

Light's Speed Determined,* p. 103.

(This will fit on a 3 x 5 card.)

Science News-Letter, November 13, 1926

PHYSICS—GEOGRAPHY

Antipodes Absurd

Lactantius (Fourth Century, A.D.), ON THE HERETICAL DOCTRINE OF THE GLOBULAR FORM OF THE EARTH. Quoted by Draper, HISTORY OF INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT.

Is it possible that men can be so absurd as to believe that there are crops and the trees on the other side of the earth that hang downward, and that men have their feet higher than their heads? If you ask them how they defend these monstrosities? how things do not fall away from the earth on that side? they reply that the nature of things is such, that heavy bodies tend toward the centre like the spokes of a wheel, while light bodies, as clouds, smoke, fire, tend from the centre to the heavens on all sides. Now I am really at a loss what to say of those who, when they have once gone wrong, steadily persevere in their folly, and defend one absurd opinion by another.

Science News-Letter, November 13, 1926

ETHNOLOGY

Nature and Indian Nature

Quotation from THE RELATION OF NATURE TO MAN IN ABORIGINAL AMERICA. By Clark Wissler. New York: Oxford University Press. \$3.50.

A hunting tribe will specialize upon one or two kinds of game and so develop a complex of traits, habits and customs favorable to the pursuit of such game. It is also clear that the traits so developed will not extend beyond the range of the game pursued.

A tongue of true prairie land reaches across Illinois and expands over northern Indiana, a geographical factor often overlooked; but ethnic phenomena did not overlook it, because we find in this pocket a tribe of Indians having striking prairie characteristics, though, for the most part, surrounded by forest tribes.

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