

EVOLUTION

All Are Evolutionists

Fundamentalists are evolutionists at heart, only they have not thought the thing through, asserted Professor H. C. Cowles, of the University of Chicago, in a lecture at the New York Botanical Garden. "Most fundamentalists believe that the various divisions of the human race have come from a single pair," said Professor Cowles. "Most anthropologists likewise believe in the unity of the human race. In other words, both fundamentalists and men of science believe that all the divergences of the human race have come through evolution since the time when man could first be recognized as such.

"Such differences as are found between the yellow, red, white and black races have come through evolution and not through special creation. One may recognize in the white race great differences between the Germans, Italians, Irish and French. One may even recognize differences in different parts of the United States. One may often distinguish a man from the south or a man from the east or north. Such differences are not due to special creation, but are due to evolution.

"In a sense, the fundamentalists may be regarded as more ardent evolutionists than are the men of science, since fundamentalists think of these great changes as having been brought about in less than 6,000 years, whereas the men of science regard such changes as requiring a vastly longer time."

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ARCHÆOLOGY

Revive New Year Ceremony

Young Mexicans in the Valley of Mexico celebrated the old Aztec New Year on May 17, according to Mrs. Zelia Nuttall, well-known authority on Mexican archæology, who is now at Coyacan.

The Maya, Aztecs, and other ancient inhabitants of the American tropics watched the sun for a simple and accurate sign to tell them when to begin a new year, Mrs. Nuttall's archæological investigations indicate. When the sun passed through the zenith and stood directly overhead, the strange phenomenon of vertical objects casting no shadow occurred just at noon. The astronomer priests, watching vertical posts or altars, then announced to the people that the Sun-god had descended from heaven. This "descent of the god" was important, Mrs. Nuttall explains, be-

cause the heat of the vertical solar rays brought rains to the country, and the farmers knew that the time had come to plant their maize and other food crops.

This year, in the patios and gardens of many Mexican schools, a pole will be erected and the children will watch the striking sight of the vanishing solar shadow.

Mrs. Nuttall has advocated that the celebration of the historic event should not only be a patriotic one, but that the children should exchange gifts consisting only of flowers and natural curiosities, thus perpetuating the keen observation of nature of the old inhabitants of their country.

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PSYCHOLOGY

Geniuses Husky

You do not have to be sick to be a great musician, says Dr. James F. Rogers, hygienist of the U. S. Bureau of Education, who has made a statistical study of the lives and health of several hundred musicians of the period between 1700 and 1900 to prove his point.

The idea that genius, musical or otherwise, inhabits an unsound mind and a crazy body has been knocked into a cocked hat, this writer declares. "There is a common belief that great men are abnormal in both body and mind, but nothing is further from fact," said Dr. Rogers. "The great man as a rule is of superior physique and vigor, and the greater the man of genius he is, the more regard he has for the physical foundation upon which his work depends."

For every delicate and sickly Keats or Chopin or Stevenson, there are many such robust specimens as Goethe, Browning and Rubinstein. And such physical giants as Handel, Bach, Brahms and Beethoven are first among great musicians. Wagner stood on his head at 60 for the sheer joy of showing off to his friends, and the musician Brahms was never sick in his life, and could sleep anywhere, any time and any place he pleased.

Many peculiar beliefs have been current as to the mental and physical effects upon the musician of the music he produced and the instrument he played, Dr. Rogers said. Music has often been recommended as a cure for various bodily and mental ills, and has been applied medicinally in institutions and clinics for the mentally maimed. Whether or not the musician himself was remarkably benefited by the magic powers of his

own music or whether he was injured, like the manipulator of X-rays from an overdose of this remedy, has often been asked. These questions and whether or not the musician is subject to occupational diseases incidental to the production of music, Dr. Rogers has attempted to answer by his statistical inquiry.

The old idea that performers on wind instruments are especially subject to tuberculosis is unfounded, he says, as well as that these performers are liable to injure their lungs. The general average length of life for the trumpet and cornet players he found was 69.1 years, and of all wind instruments these two demand the greatest lung pressure.

Clarinet, horn, bassoon, oboe and flute players live longest in the order named, Dr. Rogers found, and the group of players who develop the least pressure in the lungs, as the flutists, are the lowest on the longevity scale of wind instrument players.

The increase in longevity, however, is not to be attributed to the increase in pressure required in performance but rather to the fact that it takes a vigorous person in the first place to play a trumpet or clarinet well enough to break into the Hall of Fame.

The average length of life a century ago was only 39 years, Dr. Rogers said, as compared with about 56 years today. Therefore, all the musicians, whether they blew, scraped or pounded keys, lived to a comparatively ripe old age, for their average length of life was greater than that of the rest of the population.

The average person in the United States, in other than the musical professions, loses from 4 to 5 days a year from his work on account of illness. While there are no statistics on general groups of musicians, 11 members of the wind section of the Boston Symphony Orchestra were absent on an average but 2 times each in a total of 10 seasons. This is an absence of but four-tenths of a day per man, Dr. Rogers pointed out, and therefore these musicians seem ten times as healthy as the average of men. If this little group is representative, then orchestral performers of this class are a healthy lot.

While Dr. Rogers found no statistics for singers, he believes that these would fall in a class with the wind instrument players as singing has been recommended as a most healthful exercise and the professional cannot, like an athlete, train for the season and then fall from grace in between times.

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