

## Darwin's House a Shrine

*History of Science*

The birthplace of evolution, the house at Down on the outskirts of London where Charles Darwin lived for almost forty years and wrote "Origin of Species," "Descent of Man," and other famous biological classics, is to open to visitors on June 7 as a shrine to his memory.

Under the guardianship of the British Association for the Advancement of Science and as a result of the generosity of George Buckston Browne, British surgeon, Down House was acquired from Prof. Charles Galton Darwin, grandson of the naturalist. Maintenance and preservation for all time is provided in the terms of the gift and it will be open to the public without charge.

Relics of Darwin will be deposited and exhibited there and naturalists throughout the world have been invited to contribute Darwiniana to this collection. The great naturalist's "old study" in which the "Origin of Species" was written is to be restored and furnished as it was when Darwin lived. The famous artist, John Collier, has been commissioned by the donor to paint replicas of his well-known portraits of Darwin and Huxley to be hung at Down House. Several leading American biologists, among them President Henry Fairfield Osborn of the American Museum of Natural History, are expected to send to the shrine letters and manuscripts relating to the theory of evolution as expounded by Darwin.

In the garden with its "thinking path," as Darwin called its sand walk; in the orchards and meadows and in the house itself, scientists of a new generation are expected to continue the work of evolutionary discovery. Combined with the memorial features of Down House its use for scientific research is contemplated.

*Science News-Letter, June 1, 1929*

## Are We Overspecialized?

*Philosophy*

DR. EDWIN G. CONKLIN in a letter to the American Philosophical Society:

"Indeed, the danger at the present time is that specialization has so far outrun integration that we may have approached the danger point where knowledge, science or society will break up into smaller fragments and thus put an end to progress as a whole."

*Science News-Letter, June 1, 1929*

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