

snakes beside that of Hercules; and history records that whenever science and orthodoxy have been fairly opposed, the latter has been forced to retire from the lists, bleeding and crushed if not annihilated; scotched, if not slain."

Huxley was a comparatively late convert to evolution. For a long time he held firmly to the belief that each of the many thousands of species was a distinct unit. When he first became acquainted with Darwin he was strongly convinced that no species could ever develop into a different one. During the five years or so immediately preceding the publication of Darwin's epoch-making book, the two men became close friends. While Darwin was writing the Origin of Species he discussed his ideas rather fully with Huxley, but never felt that he had succeeded in convincing him. When he sent him a prepublication copy of the book, he was greatly concerned to know what attitude Huxley would take.

#### DARWIN'S BULLDOG

Huxley was devoted to his older friend. As he read the book he foresaw the attack that ecclesiastical leaders would level against it. Two days before the scheduled date of publication he wrote a letter to Darwin which included the following paragraphs:

"I trust you will not allow yourself to be in any way disgusted or annoyed by the considerable abuse and misrepresentation which, unless I greatly mistake, is in store for you. Depend upon it, you have earned the lasting gratitude of all thoughtful men; and as to the curs which will bark and yelp, you must recollect that some of your friends, at any rate, are endowed with an amount of combativeness which (though you have often and justly rebuked it) may stand you in good stead.

"I am sharpening my claws and beak in readiness."

In the course of the next few years Huxley amply fulfilled his promise. He wrote extensive reviews, gave lectures to workingmen, and spoke at scientific meetings. He was tireless in his defense of Darwin's ideas. In fact, Darwinism