

Thus we see that the theory of evolution is actually unprovable. To deny that God has ever created any particular class of plant or animal is an attempt to prove a universal negative which is logically impossible. Only a being with absolute knowledge of all past history could safely make a negative statement of this type.

WIDE ACCEPTANCE NOT A CRITERION OF TRUTH

Since evolution is really a negative guess it may seem very strange that it has come to be so widely accepted. However, anyone who knows much about history should readily see that wide acceptance is by no means a criterion of truth. In past years many false ideas have been widely accepted; some have continued for centuries to be almost universally believed. A prime example is the idea, so widespread in the Middle Ages, that the earth is flat like a saucer. Clear proof that this was wrong was easily available. Whenever a man watched a ship sailing away from a port, its mast would remain visible long after its hull had passed beyond the horizon. Yet despite this clear evidence of the spherical shape of the earth, people continued for many centuries to believe in a flat earth.

Another false idea that was generally accepted for a long time resulted in the practice of blood-letting. For many centuries it was believed that most diseases could be alleviated by reducing the amount of blood in a person's body. George Washington is said to have died as a result of being bled by a surgeon. As recently as the middle of the nineteenth century millions of medicinal leeches were used for this purpose in Europe and America. During the present century their use has steadily declined until in 1950 it could be said that "only a relatively few continue to be used, mostly for minor affections of the eyes and gums."

It is striking to see how the popular attitude has been reversed. A century ago, if a person was ill, the first thought was to seek a means of withdrawing some of his blood. Today the first and best remedy for many ailments is not the removal of blood but its transfusion into one's body. Thus a view that is now considered false was almost universally held for many centuries.