

When Darwin first presented his views, most of the older biologists were unconvinced and remained so. Under the heavy propaganda and clever debating of Huxley most of the younger ones accepted the theory of evolution. Early in the present century, after the great advances in genetics, for a time there was a considerable movement away from Darwinism among high-ranking scientists. More recently most biologists have been so propagandized in their course of study that they blindly accept the theory, even though in most cases the individual scientist's field of specialization provides little ground for personal judgment as to whether evolution is true or false; yet every now and then in recent years some prominent biologist has spoken out strongly against some part of the theory or against the theory as a whole. If one is simply to label any biologist who does not consider evolution a fact as not "a serious biologist," then the statement can be taken as true. However, this is surely an unscientific way of classifying biologists. Besides, truth is not a matter of counting votes, but of examining evidence.

#### EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY LACKING

The statement just quoted insists upon describing evolution as a fact. In view of the definition included in the statement it is natural to raise the question: What type of evidence should be necessary in order to consider an idea thus defined as being "a fact"?

The quotation asserts that it is an undoubted fact that all living organisms have developed from previously existing types under the control of evolutionary processes. The words show that he is not speaking of science, but of history.

Science deals with materials or forces that can be studied through observation or experiment. No present observation or experiment can prove what has happened in the past. For history, another type of evidence is normally required.

One may form theories about the past, but there is always a large element of guesswork in such theories. The only way that history can be determined with certainty is through access to first-hand eyewitness evidence.