

type and reliability. In some cases circumstantial evidence may be very strong; in others it may be extremely weak. In every case it must be evaluated with great care. Lacking eyewitness evidence the type of circumstantial evidence for evolution that might seem most dependable would be evidence from fossils contained in geological strata.

Fossils are remains of or traces made by living creatures in ancient times. In comparatively recent times some entire skeletons of animals have been preserved through unusual circumstances. More ancient fossils are apt to be quite fragmentary. Let us assume that there were to be found in geological strata evidence of the existence in ancient times of a great number of animals, showing tremendous variety, but every one differing only slightly from some other. Let us assume that all of these could be arranged in a definite tree-like arrangement whereby the simplest could be placed first and then next to it certain ones which differed only slightly from it in various ways, and that next to each of these could be placed others that differed slightly from them, so that various lines could be made along each of which a complete series could be placed, showing gradual changes from the very simple original beginning up to fossils that would be like the great variety of animals in existence today. This might well be considered a very great step toward definite evidence of evolution as a historic fact. Yet even if such evidence as this were present (and it is not), it could hardly be considered sufficient to prove evolution to be a fact.

Suppose that someone were to go into a junk yard where thousands of worn out automobiles had been discarded in the course of the past seventy years. Suppose that he were to find that these automobiles could be arranged in a number of different series, each starting from the same primitive car, but each showing a series of gradual changes leading directly to the various types of cars in existence today. Would this prove that the present types of automobiles had all developed from the earliest simple form to the present complex ones without the intervention of any intelligent beings? Such an idea would immediately be dismissed as absurd. We know