

Lecture 5 - THE RISE OF EVOLUTION (cont'd)

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(subhead) DEFINITE LIMITS TO DEVELOPMENT

We have seen how wrong it is to call a guess about history a fact. This is especially true in the case of evolution, since in this case there is no such evidence as history requires. Most of the alleged evidence for evolution boils down to mere points of similarity. Similarities by themselves can never prove genealogical relationship. History, to be valid, must have far better evidence than this.

We have also seen that the wide adoption of the theory of evolution resulted from the belief that Darwin had proposed a process that could explain the development of every existing type of life from an earlier simpler one. Darwin's idea that all sorts of variations are constantly appearing, and that for great changes to occur it is therefore only necessary that those best fitted for survival be preserved, was abandoned long ago. In its place there has been substituted the idea that evolution is the result of mutations.

Professor Richard Goldschmidt, Ph.D., M.D., ^{D. Sc.} ~~Sci. D.~~ one of the outstanding biologists of the present century, carried on an extensive series of experiments and observations, as a result of which he insisted that there is no evidence of the possibility that any major type of life could have developed through a succession of small mutations. The alternative theory that Professor Goldschmidt suggested, that the various types of life had developed through sudden systemic mutations, which would occur extremely rarely, but which would produce a complete new major type of life at one step, is not considered reasonable by most biologists. Thus there is no theory of a process by which evolution might have occurred that is considered possible by all qualified biologists.