

# Is Human Progress Inevitable?

Stubborn Facts that Evolutionists will Find it Hard to Explain Away

(By a Christian Physician)  
(Published in lieu of Sunday School Lesson for next Sunday.)

It may be a pleasant theory that in every way and every day man is getting better and better, but it isn't so. He is a being of three parts, spirit, mind, and body, and recent statistics show that in all three realms he is going downhill. Last week the author of this article, who is a Canadian Christian doctor and is a member of the American Scientific Affiliation, showed that even the earth itself is deteriorating. Now he gives facts and figures that would be hopelessly depressing if we were not forewarned by the Word of God and could not look forward to the sure fulfillment of His gracious promises for the future.

According to the theory of evolution, man has gradually evolved from some elementary form of life during a period of millions of years. No one can tell, of course, how or why the alleged process ever began in the first place or how or why it has continued without interruption over such a long period of time or for what purpose it has been accomplished, if indeed there has been any purpose at all.

The doctrine of evolution implies the concept of inevitable progress. There must have been tremendous changes of a beneficial nature in the past for man to have advanced from a one-celled organism to his present stature. It could hardly have happened by chance. And if man has progressed thus far without any supernatural intervention or direction, then there must have been some inherent principle or natural law in life itself which rendered inevitable the progress that has taken place. Not only so, but man today, as the highest form of life, should still be advancing upward and onward. It was the idea of inevitable progress that led such men as Nietzsche to the concept of the superman. Julian Huxley seeks to evade this obvious conclusion, however, by stating that "it seems probable that life's major trends have run their course." Others also appear to be taking refuge in the idea that evolution has now run its course, but it is difficult to explain why evolution should suddenly have stopped just when man had discovered that it was taking place.

Now when we come to study of man we find that there is little evidence of any further upward and onward progress taking place, but rather there is some definite evidence that mankind is actually deteriorating physically, mentally, and spiritually at the present time. Let us review the situation briefly.

**Man's Physical Decline**  
Man is deteriorating physically. It is unquestionably true that men and women in well-fed countries such as the U.S.A. and Canada are taller and better than those who lived in Europe a few hundred years ago. This is, no doubt, due to improved nutrition and the scientific use of vitamins, and the like, in our diet. Modern medical science has also removed the scourge of plagues and epidemics to a large extent, and the range of disease that are amenable to treatment increase year by year so that more people than ever are now living to middle age. There is also no doubt but that with the proper utilization of our present store of knowledge further progress could still be made in building up a race of healthy, well-developed people.

But all these advances have added little to the basic needs of mankind. When we come to compare modern man with his ancestors, we must find another yardstick and longevity is the best criterion of man's physique. All other things being equal, the machine that lasts the longest is the best, and the one who can keep going for the longest period of time without breaking down is obviously superior. Man has always desired to live long, and in the spacious days of an earlier age there must have been much for which to live. Furthermore the length of survival is surely one of the highest values in the field of biology.

During the patriarchal age, that is to say, 5,000 to 6,000 years ago, men lived to great ages and retain-

ed their mental and physical faculties up until the end of life. Adam lived to the age of 930 (Gen. 5:5) and Jared to the age of 962 (Gen. 5:20). Methuselah lived longer than any of the others, and was 969 years old when he died (Gen. 5:27). There is no doubt that the patriarchs were physically able to do all that men can do today, but they were also able to continue active for years after modern man has worn out. What powers of endurance a man must have had to live for nearly 1,000 years! What wonderful digestion and nutrition they must have had in those days! Think of a nervous system that could function for nearly a millennium! The patriarchs must have been made of better stuff than men today to last so long without breaking down. Even Moses, who lived 2,500 years after the age of the patriarchs, was 120 years old when he died. Yet "his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated" (Deut. 34:7). Dr. Hugh Mackintosh stated that "actually there is ample secular evidence to show that there once existed on this earth of ours a race of men of magnificent physique, splendidly muscled, with a brain capacity exceeding that of modern man, and having all the signs of extreme longevity."

In the days of David, however, that is, 100 B.C., the span of life had declined to threescore years and ten (Psa. 90:10), and in the 3,000 years of human history since then there has been no increase in the longevity of man. Not only were patriarchs able to carry on, but their procreative abilities were prolonged long after the span of reproductive activity today. Methuselah was 187 years old when he begat Lamech (Gen. 5:25), and Jared begat Enoch at the age of 162 (Gen. 5:18).

**Man's Mental Decline**  
Mentally, too, man is deteriorating, not advancing. While it is true that there has been a tremendous increase in knowledge in recent years, this has largely been the result of the application of the experimental method in science during the past century or more as a result of which technological methods and knowledge have pyramided to almost unbelievable heights. It is true also that there are geniuses today like Einstein who are able to apply and systematize the accumulated store of facts. But when we come to the general population, the average man, the story is very different. After all, the common man is the modern man.

In Great Britain, Prof. Godfrey Thomson of the University of Edinburgh has shown that the average decline in intelligence of the general population amounts to 2 or 3 points (2 or 3%) in the Intelligence Quotient with each generation. This is probably due to the differential birth rate, the parents of higher intelligence rating having fewer children than those with low ratings, as a result of which the average intelligence steadily declines. Repeated wars have no doubt contributed also to the decline in intelligence, since the ablest and best are always selected for combat duty in time of war, while the mentally ill and defective are left at home to survive.

Sir Cyril Burt of University College, London, is more conservative, and ventures an estimated decline in intelligence of 1.5 I.Q. points per generation. He does not think that it would be lower than 1 point or higher than 2. But he admits that there is evidence of a decline, and he states that "it will be seen that, if the rate assumed continues, then in a little over 50 years the number of pupils of 'scholarship' ability would be approximately halved, and the number of feeble-minded almost doubled. These results to my mind form a far more serious consequence than the lowering of the general average by about 5 I.Q. points."

Dr. Raymond Cattell, who is a Leonard Darwin research fellow, states that "speaking in round terms a decline of average I.Q. for town and country of about three points per generation is indicated; or one point per decade. If this were to continue for three hundred years half the population would be mentally defective. Since the changes which mark the rises and declines of history are certainly not as drastic as to require wholesale mental deficiency, the present rate of change must be one of the most galloping plunges to bank-

## MORE NYLON GRIEF



Her nylons dropping off like nothing is reason for annoyed look on face of Mrs. Betty Willis in San Francisco, Calif. Similar to hosiery grief reported in other parts of the U.S. Mrs. Willis and a friend were walking across San Francisco's Golden Gate bridge just minding their own business when suddenly they felt a stinging sensation on their legs. They found themselves rapidly becoming hoseless. A strange condition of atmosphere in one theory.

ruptcy that has ever occurred."

All these surveys have been carried out in Great Britain, and, as far as is known, similar investigations have not yet been undertaken in North America or elsewhere. It would only be reasonable to assume, however, that we are in no way superior intellectually to our English cousins. If and when such surveys are carried out in this country or in other lands it is believed that the results will closely parallel those in the United Kingdom for the same reasons that have been given above.

**The Growing Cry for Security**  
The growing cry for security which is heard everywhere today is a sign of immaturity. When we were children we were content with security, but when maturity is reached the normal individual demands his independence. Of course we all want security, but when adults are willing to surrender the priceless gift of freedom for security such an attitude implies a regression to an immature state of mind.

This immaturity which characterizes the present generation is reflected in many ways. It is strikingly demonstrated in the ridiculous idea that "everybody must be amused. Not only the children but the young people, the middle-aged, the old people, even the convicts in our prisons, everybody must be amused nowadays.

This adolescent attitude of mind may be observed also in the casual outlook on life which is prevalent everywhere. No wonder such ideas

as socialism and Communism are gaining ground. These concepts are based on a most superficial understanding of the problems involved. The trouble is that there are so few today who have the mature judgment or spiritual insight to evaluate the evidence or appreciate the implications of modern trends. Only the Bible-taught believer can fully understand the significance of passing events.

As a result of these influences the number of persons who can or who are willing to accept responsibility diminishes steadily and this fact affords further evidence of widespread intellectual and moral deterioration. It is not uncommon in factories and businesses today for men to refuse promotion and in the church the small number of those who can be depended upon to assume responsibility has reached an alarming point. This neglect of duty has led to a complete breakdown of human government in many countries. Democracy is being replaced by the most primitive form of despotic rulership in many lands, with the consequent subjugation and enslavement of the masses. If men will not assume responsibility a leader will always rise who will promise them anything; and this adolescent attitude of mind, which is so prevalent throughout the world today, is an ideal psychological environment in which a dictatorship might arise. There are many potential Hitlers and Stalins in every country who are just waiting for the opportunity to take over.

Norman Cousins in his book, "Modern Man is Obsolete," states that "the beginning of the Atomic Age has brought less hope than fear. It is a primitive fear, the fear of the unknown, the fear of forces man can neither channel nor comprehend.....It is the fear of irrational death. It is thus that man stumbles fitfully into a new era of atomic energy for which he is ill equipped to accept its potential blessings as he is to control its present dangers." God has said, "I also will choose their delusions, and will bring their fears upon them" (Isa. 66:4). We are witnessing this today, for "wars and rumours of wars" (Matt. 24:6) have undermined the stability of society. The days in which we live are characterized by confusion of thought and subtlety. No wonder man is unable any longer to plan ahead; no wonder he has lost his sense of foresight for "men's hearts (are) failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth" (Luke 21:26).

**Man's Spiritual Decline**  
When we come to the spiritual realm there is obvious evidence of widespread declension. Atheistic Russia now controls about one-fourth of the world's population. In the remaining free countries the Church of Rome, saturated with idolatry, superstition, and carnality, is rising rapidly to a position of political domination and spiritual supremacy. On the other hand the movement toward union on the part of the Protestant churches is but an outward and visible sign of "deep seated defeatism, a sign of senility" as an English layman points out.

The days in which we live are charged with the spirit of lawlessness. In every field of culture, in

art, literature, music; in science, theology, education, and government there is the spirit of restlessness and a rebellion against the established law and order. Everywhere authority is being questioned and government of the people, for the people, and by the people is becoming increasingly difficult. A delinquent generation of parents is producing a generation of delinquent children. It is "the mystery of iniquity" (lawlessness) (2 Thess. 2:7) which is working everywhere to prepare the way for the Antichrist, the "man of sin" (the lawless one) (2 Thess. 2:3, 4). In the ecclesiastical field this has led to the great apostasy which characterizes the outward and visible church today.

**Conclusion**  
We have seen then that man is deteriorating physically, mentally, and spiritually. As Raymond Cattell has stated, the present situation "must be one of the most galloping plunges into bankruptcy" that the world has ever known. But this is not the teaching of evolution. All the great forces of evil in the world today have utilized the theory of evolution as the basis of their attacks on the Christian faith. Commun-

ism and Fascism, militarism and Atheism have applied the doctrine in the propagation of their Satanically inspired programs. Arthur N. Field has pointed out that "this assumed evolutionary change is associated with the idea of progress and inevitable onward and upward movement. The net result of the propagation of evolutionary ideas is, first and foremost, to lower the public resistance to change. The propagation of evolution is thus of the highest advantage to those who, for their own reasons—which are not necessarily those publicly proclaimed by them—wish to effect revolutionary overthrow of existing institutions. Their battle is half won if they can succeed in propagating the idea that everything is in a state of inevitable and automatically beneficial evolution."

In these days of declension and in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation it is well to remember that the resources of the believer remain unchanged in a changing world. "Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand" (Dan. 12:10).

## Dressmaking & Alterations

Marion Sanderson - O'Brien Ave.

Phone 33j1 Stouffville

For Courteous Service & Quality Products

## TEXACO Service Station

Unionville  
Sky-Chief & Fire-Chief Gasolines  
Texaco Motor Oils & Greases  
Firestone Tires

**VERN TRUNK**  
Lessee.

## Tasty Lamb Dumplings

cost so little made with MAGIC

Cut 2 lbs. lamb into 1" pieces; brown well in hot dripping; pour off excess fat. Add 4 c. boiling water, 2 celery tops, 2 sprigs parsley, 1 bay leaf, 1 tsp. salt and ¼ tsp. pepper. Cover and simmer 2 hrs. Add 1 ½ c. diced carrots, 6 peeled small onions. Simmer until meat and vegetables are tender, about ¾ hr. Combine 1 lbs. melted butter and 2 lbs. flour and stir in a little hot gravy; stir into stew; stir and cook until thickened.

DUMPLINGS: Mix and sift into bowl 1 ½ c. once-sifted pastry flour (or 1 ¼ c. once-sifted hard wheat flour), 3 tsp. Magic Baking Powder, ¼ tsp. salt. Cut in finely 1 ½ lbs. shortening. Make a well in centre, pour in ¾ c. cold water or milk and mix lightly with a fork. Drop by small spoonfuls over hot stew. Simmer, without lifting the cover, for 15 minutes.



**Will YOU save someone's life?**

Rushed to the hospital seriously injured in an accident, a little child's life hangs perilously in the balance. Will you reach out and help? There are mothers, new-born babies, that cannot live without blood transfusion. Can they count on you? The Red Cross Free Blood Transfusion Service, fast being extended across Canada, is part of the great work you and thousands of other Canadians are doing. It requires your continued—your increased support—to finance this great humanitarian project. Your Red Cross also sends immediate relief wherever disaster strikes, gives assistance to disabled veterans, supports Outpost Hospitals on far northern frontiers, extends its helping hand to suffering humanity everywhere. The Red Cross is YOUR Red Cross. The work it is doing can only be done with YOUR help. This work must not be left undone. Give generously. Red Cross services also include: Treatment for Crippled Children, Nutrition Services, First Aid and Home Nursing Courses, Swimming and Water Safety, etc. **This is YOUR work—GIVE!**

Donations accepted here by Canadian Bank of Commerce

**CANADIAN RED CROSS**

When considering your donation, remember that this year the Canadian Red Cross needs 5 Million Dollars—40% more than the previous appeal.

## Guard Against Engine Wear...

... With Genuine **FRAM** Oil Filter Cartridges

Protect your car, truck or tractor from costly engine breakdowns caused by abrasive dust, sludge and dirt. Keep your oil filter working with genuine FRAM Oil Filter Cartridges. See your dealer.



**J.C. ADAMS COMPANY Limited**  
TORONTO, ONTARIO