The History of Evolutionary Thought: SIR EDWARD B. POULTON

Scientific Events:
- Expeditions of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia; The Holden Expedition of the American Museum of Natural History; The A. W. Mellon Educational and Charitable Trust; Proposed Buildings for the National Institute of Health; Grants-in-Aid for Public Health Work; The Second National Conference on Educational Broadcasting

Scientific Notes and News

Discussion:
Upper Cretaceous Plants from Patagonia: Professor Edward W. Berry. Observation on Excitation of Fireflies by Explosions: Dr. Rudolf Huebemann. Secondary Binocular Vision in Birds: Austin H. Clark. An Infectious Disease Causing Widespread Necrosis in the Liver of the Mexican Axolotl: Dr. Cranford Hutchinson and Dr. Baldwin Lucké

Address:
The History of Evolutionary Thought

As recorded in Meetings of the British Association

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Sir William Thomson, in his address at Edinburgh in 1871, said that "the real origin of the British Association" was given in the words of a letter written by David Brewster to John Phillips on February 23, 1831, a few months before the first meeting: "The principal object of the Society would be to make the cultivators of science acquainted with each other, to stimulate one another to new exertions, and to bring the objects of science more before the public eye, and to take measures for advancing its interests and accelerating its progress." That the time was fully ripe for the birth of the association is made very clear by the words written by John Keble to a friend, referring to the D.C.L. degrees conferred, at the Oxford meeting in 1832, on David Brewster, Robert Brown, John Dalton and Michael Faraday: "The Oxford Doctors have truckled sadly to the spirit of the times in receiving the hodge-podge of philosophers as they did"—an opinion on which Lord Salisbury commented at the Oxford meeting in 1894: "It is amusing at this distance of time, to note the names of the hodge-podge of philosophers whose academical distinctions so sorely vexed Mr. Keble's gentle spirit." It is not only amusing but pathetic that such words should have been used by a revered member of a university which had done splendid service for science, as has been so well shown in Dr. R. T. Gunther's volumes.

Faced by the serious duty of preparing this address, I felt that the best hope of interesting you would be to choose a subject which has received special attention at our meetings. I have selected the progress of thought on organic evolution as it may be followed in addresses,