ZOOLOGICAL SCIENCES IN THE FUTURE

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I. Introduction

As far back as we can follow human records the relations of man and animals have been intimate. The Cro-Magnons in France of 50,000 or more years ago have left accurate and spirited records of animal groups, showing careful observation, that may have been born of the chase but which also displayed imaginative interest that extended beyond physical needs. Primitive man was largely dependent upon wild animal life for food and clothing. How far back the history of domestication of animals goes is still uncertain. The early use of totems and of animal names for families and clans testifies to a feeling of affinity. The satisfaction of needs, the stimulus to artistic impulse and the feeling of a kind of animal brotherhood created the first human understanding of animal life.

Aristotle, who so preeminentely embodied the Greek feeling for natural law, is sometimes called the father of zoology, for he was the first great systematizer of animal lore, including not only that handed down, but also his own observations and reflections. He wrote a general “Historia Animalium,” and also works on anatomy and physiology of animals, the famous “De Partibus Animalium,” on the movements and locomotor organs of animals, “De Motu Animalium” and “De Incessu Animalium”; he wrote also to some extent on the behavior of animals, and all his philosophy is permeated by his zoological reasoning. Thus over 2,000 years ago the principal subdivisions, the philosophical implications and the social significance of zoology were delineated.

The evolution of zoology since may be traced in the enlargement of data, increase of accuracy in determination of facts accompanied by specialization, in the development of theories, in the application of techniques derived largely from other sciences, in economic
Editor's Summary

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