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EACH AFTER HIS KIND¹

By Dr. LEON J. COLE

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HAVING chosen a biblical title for my talk this evening, I may well conform to classical, and clerical, precedent by following it with an appropriate text. My text, then, is taken from the first and second chapters of the Book of Genesis.

And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.

And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast

¹ Address of the retiring vice-president and chairman of the Section for the Zoological Sciences of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Philadelphia, December 31, 1940.

of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.

And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; . . .

Thus we see that the science, or at any rate the art, of nomenclature had a simple and auspicious beginning. Not only was Adam assured on the highest authority that "every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air" would continue to reproduce with fidelity "after his kind," but that whatever names he should give to them would stick—a boon that would be greatly appreciated by present-day taxonomists. Verily, the Garden of Eden at that time was a nomenclator's paradise, for every species was a new one and there was no need to search through dusty tomes for

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