
Problems of Sex

spring up within us with a tremendous organic momentum. The touch of nature that makes the whole world kin is nowhere more manifest than in the sex-life to which it owes its continuance and its ecstasy; and in the fact of our affiliation to other mammals, to their ancestors, and to the humbler though scarcely less beautiful ancestors of these, we read at once a warning and an encouragement.

A warning, because there are elements in our sex-impulses which require to be damped down as out of date, which, if allowed to develop, will be as tares strangling out wheat, and too often indeed gain dominance and drive men wild and mad. An encouragement, because we can discern, looking backwards, how sex-love has evolved in fineness without losing in intensity, how it has become more complicated, more beautiful, more lasting. This gives us some confidence when we look forward at the path man must travel before he gets free from the risk of a reversion which still so often drags his evolution in the mud.

There is much to be said for beginning, as teachers and parents increasingly do, both our own sex-studies and our children's needed sex-initiations amid the world of flowers. Thereafter amid the cryptogamic plants we readily search down into the microscopic secrets of fertilisation and development; and, by way of the fern and conifer, return to the flowering plants, furnished now with a re-interpretative