

We have already pointed out that the fittest is not necessarily the best. The survival of Shylock today only proves that he is the fittest to cope with existing conditions. Let the conditions be altered so as to bring them into harmony with those of nature and Shylock will be the fittest no longer. It will thus be seen that existing economic conditions are the cause of human stagnation, and even retrogression.

It has also been pointed out that in a state of nature the exercise of organs useful in procuring food leads to their development, and that the want of exercise tends to make them decay, and become rudimentary. The rich among us do not need to exercise their organs. The food is already procured. This accounts for the shrivelling process which leads to the frequent extinction of our aristocratic families. Unnatural conditions wipe them out. But if exercise is to be beneficial it must not be excessive. Every athlete knows the danger of over-training. Many among the poor are cruelly over-worked. Not only are the hours of work far too many, but the work is too heavy, and is begun at too early an age. The result is degeneracy, physical, mental, and moral, which, if continued long enough, causes all three sides of man's nature to become rudimentary.

The reader will now perceive that the taunt of those who say that Socialism is inconsistent with the laws of nature carries no weight. Not only is it quite consistent with nature's laws, but it is the only social arrangement of which so much can be said. Capitalistic individualism has no prototype in nature, and is therefore unnatural. But some opponent will say, "It is here, and therefore it must be a natural product." The answer is simple. It is here, but it is one of nature's failures. We have seen how, low down in the organic scale, nature makes many failures in order to achieve one success. Sometimes even millions perish in order that one of high type may survive. Nature always accomplishes her purposes in the end. We know that her aim is Communism, for some of the higher species have already reached it, and all are tending towards it. It will come. The reader may stand on the seashore when the tide is rising, and watch the waves as they roll in. He may watch each wave recede apparently to the point from which it started. He may watch a long time without being able to perceive that any advance has been made. But let him wait a little longer, let him wait long enough, and he will see the tide infallibly reach its mark. So does nature work. We know what is coming. Today Capitalist individualism seems firmly rooted and strongly knit, but the laws of nature are fighting on our side. It may hold its ground for many years yet, but the time is coming when the waves of the evolutionary tide will break and roar far, very far above it.