

2. To begin with, the evolution idea has not proved the effective and comprehensive clue to the mystery of existence that it promised to be; and ever since the theory was announced, it has been the unceasing bone of contention among the scientists themselves. Not that the idea has been challenged. No intelligent persons nowadays doubt the essential truth of the evolution principle; but an endless controversy has turned about one point, namely, whether the determining factors in evolution are outside or within the living organism. Is life the product of the operation of physical and chemical forces, and is its development determined by the operation of external circumstances? Or is life an independent thing, itself a force, which while not indifferent to external conditions, did not arise out of them and is to some extent able to overcome them? Let me point out that on either view there is one ultimate question to be answered—where the whole sum of things came from