

THE STRUGGLE FOR EXISTENCE

In the small space which is at our disposal, it is, of course, impossible to deal with this subject in as comprehensive or detailed a manner as could be desired. The most, indeed, that can be done is to sketch a broad outline. It will be our endeavor throughout to avoid, as far as possible, technical terms and phraseology while, at the same time, keeping as near as possible in line with the known scientific facts of evolution.

Struggle for Existence.

The history of the human race may be considered as the history of a struggle for existence. In using the words "history of the human race," we refer to what may be termed the real or fundamental history of the human race. The "histories," or so-called histories, with which most of us are more or less acquainted, by reason of our school-book lessons, can not be seriously considered by a student. We find, therein, in fact, nothing or next to nothing of real importance. These records of wars, great men, kings, queens, emperors, etc., do not in any sense make up the history of humanity. They can, at best, be regarded as affording us but momentary glances into the life of society—interesting to a certain extent, perhaps, but in reality of very little importance to us, as workers.

What is it then, that gives us the real story of the progress of the human race? This real history, as I before said is that of a struggle for existence—or, in other words, of a struggle to get those things which would enable us to live. The first thing necessary to support human life is food.