
Problems of Sex

sperms or milt. Many of the thousands of sperms are doubtless lost, but the method is much less wasteful than that of the first grade.

A third grade* is represented by those animals in which what we may call the note of physical fondness is first sounded. We mean cases where the male plays with the female, caressing her, it may be dancing with her. The love-play is often extraordinary, as, for instance, in some newts. In diverse forms there is a courtship of touch, often prolonged and not without its refinements, before the climax is reached when the two bodies unite.

The fourth step is made when to the primary tactile courtship there is added a wealth of æsthetic appeal. There is a great diversity along many distinct lines of evolution—the trumpeting of the elephant, the song of the nightingale, the croaking of frogs, the instrumental music of many insects. There are displays of strength, of agility, and of beauty—love-dances and quaint parades. Some of the glow-worms attract their winged mates by flashes of light, some butterflies by their fragrance. Of the butterfly's method at a higher level, the musk-deer is a conspicuous example among mammals. To the physical fondness of one sex for another there is added a more or less subtle æsthetic embroidery, and there is

* It must be understood that these grades do not form a linear series. The same succession of grades seems to have repeated itself along several quite distinct lines of evolution.