

physiologists; and I trust that some of our medical students, sooner or later, will, by their own original investigations, contribute something to our knowledge within this important field. The growth in the literature of Physiology, like that of Botany and Zoology, has been enormous; and as an illustration of this I may mention that my colleague, Professor Swale Vincent, in a masterly work which he has just published on Internal Secretion, includes in his Bibliography some 3,000 references to original works and papers. The study of disease, through the efforts of the pathologist, is all the while making rapid strides. The means which have been devised to combat the specific parasitic microbes and the protozoa, which are the cause of our infectious diseases, in their ingenuity and thoroughness are among the greatest triumphs of the human intellect.

The anthropologist has recently brought to light, more especially in England, France and Germany, a number of new skeletal remains of prehistoric man, of men who lived during the great Ice Age. The most important recent discovery is that of a jawbone found in 1907 in the Mauer sands near Heidelberg, buried to a depth of 80 feet, and associated with the bones of extinct species of horse, rhinoceros and elephant. There is now every reason to suppose that man has existed upon this planet for several hundreds of thousands of years. Some authorities who have studied the mode of occurrence of the skeletons, and the rocks in which they have been buried, have estimated the age of the most ancient remains at about 500,000 years.

The most important of all biological generalizations is that of evolution, for nothing else has brought so many apparently diverse phenomena under a common point of view, or has accomplished so much for the unification of knowledge. Since the publication of that momentous work, the *Origin of Species*, in 1859, large numbers of searchers after natural knowledge have been busily engaged in collecting facts concerning living and dead organisms. And of all the innumerable facts thus gathered by the botanist, the zoologist, the anthropologist and the geologist, in the last half century, not one, so far as I know, is out of harmony with the idea of evolution. On the other hand, the