

Now this very sketchily and very roughly traces out centuries of growth ; but the sketch is perhaps sufficient for the immediate purpose. Throughout all these stages there had been progress, as has been shown, and this progress was always due to some long-headed man or group of men. These men, desiring an enlargement of their life, and keenly anxious to make the most of their opportunities, had the effect of improving and broadening life for the whole of their fellows. These long-headed men were really economists. In the early stages of existence they were so unconsciously ; they gradually became semi-conscious of economic possibilities, until with the developments that came at the end of the seventeenth century, full consciousness began to dawn.

It is of interest to realise that all these stages, which have been briefly described, exist to-day contemporaneously and can be studied from actual life. In North America and other parts of the world, some men are still in the hunting stage. In Asia and Africa, the shepherd can still be seen following his calling in much the same way as Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Primitive agriculture is still practised in various parts of the world, whilst incipient industries and the beginnings of commerce can be studied in more than one country.

Man has progressed through all the stages that