

who would trace the origin of speech to the inarticulate cries of the anthropoid ape or pithecoïd man, I do not know which. Let Wilhelm Bleek, cousin of the archievolutionist Haeckel, state his own case.

"The fact," he says,* "that conditions similar to those of humanity can no longer develop themselves from animal speechlessness, proves nothing; just as the fact that the progress of a language like that of the Hottentots to the stage of development reached by its no very distant Indogermanic relatives is now impossible, proves nothing."

But if this fact proves nothing, we may at least require that the evolutionist should prove something. I do not, of course, demand that he should develop language from animal cries by actual experiment; but I do most emphatically demand that he should prove the possibility of such development, or of the capacity for such development in the lower orders.

The substance of his argument on this point is contained in a note to the passage above quoted, which reads as follows: "Those classes of animals that stand next to man are, if not externally at least internally, in a different condition from that in which they were at the period when humanity arose. Being as yet hardly formed, they were then not only more susceptible of change, but there also lay in them a stronger impulse toward further progress, and the attainment of a higher stage. This impulse had to be satisfied, as was done in the case of human beings; or, if it remained long without satisfaction, it would necessarily be extinguished, and therewith ceased the possibility of their freeing themselves from the condition in which they were. This condition became all the while more and more confirmed; and what at first was the uncertain advance of a forward impulse toward formation, and, at the same time, the first steps towards a further development of this power, forms now the petrified, stereotyped forms of a species of animals which seems to have long ago been deprived of the possibility of internal change."†

Here, in order to prove something, two groundless assumptions are made to fill the gaps in the logic of facts, to supply the "missing link" in the evolutionary chain, viz.: first, a miraculous impulse of which no proof is given; and, secondly, an equally miraculous capa-

* Origin of Language: American Translation, p. 46.

† I regret exceedingly that the original was not accessible, as the carelessness of the American translator has made the translation barely intelligible.