

embryonic development correspond with one another to a remarkable degree. We see also, however, that in the higher animals changes of species have taken place more rapidly than in those of lower grade, though in the latter metamorphosis is usually more marked—a fact not apparently in accordance with our hypothesis.

According to this view, also, a species once created may have in itself a capacity for passing through several generic forms, constituting a cycle which ever tends to return into itself, or to advance and recede by steps more or less abrupt under the law of retardation and acceleration, combined with the influence of external circumstances. Yet the dimensions of the orbit of each species must be limited, its duration in time must also be limited, and its capacity to pass into a really new species must still be a point subject to doubt, but open to anatomical investigation and inference. As already hinted, it is a most important point of this theory, that when we have ascertained the series of embryonic changes of any animal, we have thereby ascertained its possibilities in regard to accelerated development. Its possibilities in regard to retarded development may be inferred by similar studies of animals higher in the scale. Now, if we knew the embryonic history of every animal recent and fossil, in its anatomical details, we should be able to construct out of this a table of possible affiliation of animals, and should be able to trace our existing species through the same genera, families, orders and classes in which they might have existed in geological time, and to predict what they might become in time still to come. This hypothetical scheme of creation would approach to the actual one in as far as we were able to correlate it with the physical changes which have occurred or will occur on our planet. Let us take as a crucial test the case of man himself. The actual anatomical and physiological differences which obtain between those races in which maturity is latest, and those in which it is earliest, and a comparison of these with embryonic characters, would give us the modern data. The comparison of these with the most ancient human remains might enable us to infer whether retardation or acceleration has been the tendency in historic or geological time. From this we might infer what might be the condition of man under a still more accelerated development than any now known, or under that antediluvian condition in which immaturity is said to have been